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Near East/South Asia Report



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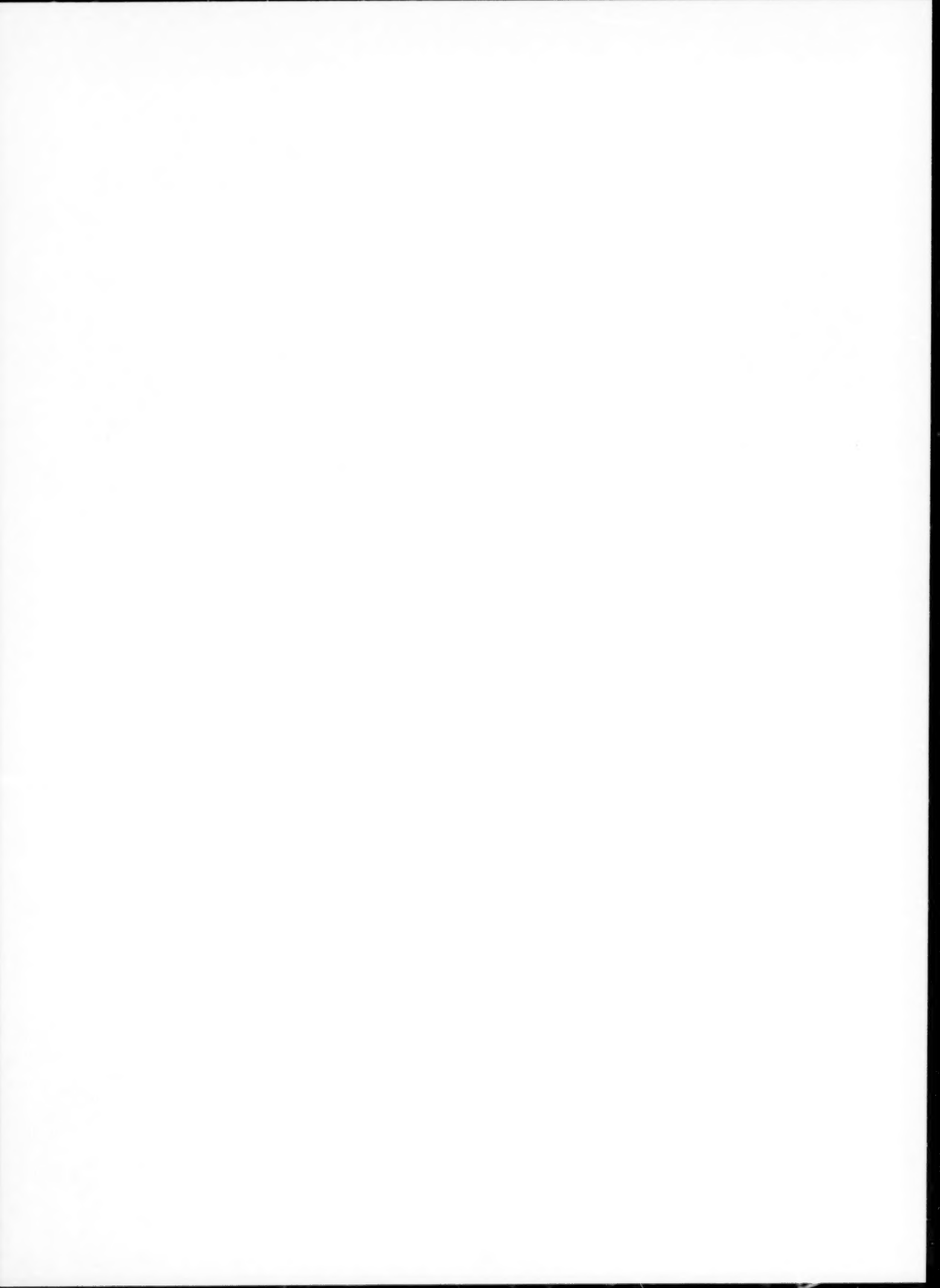
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SOVIET ACADEMIC VIEWS ASPECTS OF MIDEAST SITUATION

PM311450 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 20-26 Dec 86 pp 21-23

[Interview with Professor Vitaliy (Naumkin), Head of the Arab History Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Oriental Studies Institute, by Kamran Qurrah Daghi in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] [Daghi] Are the principles of the Soviet policy vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict constant or have they been subject to change, bargaining, and the introduction of new elements?

[Naumkin] The Soviet program for a settlement, however varied its elements, has continued to be founded on three constant principles. Before I list them, I must say that the problem must be tackled from the angle that the Palestinians are a people, not a group of refugees. This is an important issue because the Soviet Union, not any Arab party, was the first to call for tackling the problem on this basis. The world community's shift to adopting this viewpoint has materialized under the impact of strong Soviet influence.

So the first principle is Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. The second principle is guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, including their right to establish their independent state, and the third principle is guaranteeing the right of all the area's states to live securely within their borders.

Last summer, a meeting was held in Washington between prominent Soviet and U.S. scientists specializing in Middle East affairs. We exchanged views on the means and methods to settle regional disputes. The meeting was held within the framework of the standing scientific symposium between the two countries. During the symposium, we met with well-known experts and former U.S. ambassadors to Arab countries and we talked with State Department officials, including Richard Murphy.

The Americans asked us: "Why do you raise principles in this area? What is important is to agree to the idea of negotiation. There is no objection even to holding a conference in this connection, but without principles that shackle the other parties in advance." We believe that this is not a sound position. To speak of a settlement, we must talk about principles. The Soviet experts who help our political leaders to formulate

ideas insist on the need for principles on whose basis to negotiate. I am not, of course, demanding that others acknowledge the Soviet viewpoint first and then begin negotiation. However, all must try to formulate principles for negotiation.

When Israel persists in its arrogance, then from our viewpoint the third principle I have just mentioned retreats and we focus more strongly on the first and second principles, especially the principle of solving the Palestinian issue as the more important and urgent principle.

[Daghi] Does this mean that you have come to view the problem from an international, not a regional perspective?

[Naumkin] As a result of the West's (the United States) and Israel's intransigence, the Middle East problem entered in the 1980's a new qualitative phase of a highly dangerous nature. It is a phase in which the problem cannot continue to be a regional problem. What these words mean is that any explosion in the area will result in an inevitable and immediate confrontation between the superpowers. This would not have happened in the past. The current international situation is such that the superpowers -- and it is very essential to understand this -- will inevitably find themselves entangled, willy-nilly, in any explosion that may occur in the Middle East.

In the 1973 war, just a possibility of superpower confrontation existed. But now a confrontation is inevitable, and I repeat this. Neither we nor the Americans want such a confrontation. We believe that no Middle East party should work to create a situation in which the superpowers clash. These words are addressed primarily to Israel. It is regrettable that the ruling forces in Israel do not understand this fact. At present, those particular forces are unrealistic.

[Daghi] A new dimension has recently been added to the Middle East conflict, embodied in the revelation that Israel possesses nuclear bombs. Do you have a comment on this?

[Naumkin] The danger lies in the fact that, the longer the Arab-Israeli conflict continues, the greater its nuclear possibilities grow, but not because Israel is capable of producing nuclear weapons. Because of Israel's geographic conditions, it is not right to consider the use of such weapons realistic. The danger lies in the fact that the Middle East area is being dragged into the arms race, including the nuclear arms race. This race is reflected in the presence of U.S. military bases on the one hand and in the amassing of weapons arsenals in the Middle East's various hot spots on the other hand. Let us recall the U.S. Rapid Development Force, which is founded on the idea that the essential services, such as airfields, lines of communication, weapons, and munitions dumps are available in the area and that all this force needs is the manpower. The objective of the force is not just to intervene rapidly to protect oil installations but to wage a rapid war, should one break out, immediately on arrival in the area, where it can use the weapons and equipment available there.

The other point which causes us great concern in the development of the Middle East crisis is the weakness of the Arab front as a result of the unprecedented division of ranks. It is perhaps a strange coincidence that the Arab unionist forces accused of not understanding the Arab world's unionist tendencies when we had our discussions with those forces in the 1960's. But today when we try to persuade the Arab notables and representatives of the Arab forces with whom we meet to display greater Arab unity, we find that Arab forces which believed in the Arab tendencies in the past are now inclined toward regionalism.

[Daghi] Can you give us more details of your opinion on the transfer of the Israeli premiership to Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Naumkin] In this hall in which we are talking now, we recently had a meeting with the Americans who took part in the U.S.-Soviet conference held in Yurmala, a Soviet city on the Baltic Sea. They included the international relations official of the well-known Hearst press foundation and (Jeffrey Kemp), a former member of the National Security Council. The topics of discussion included the transfer of power to Shamir.

A number of Americans supported our viewpoint that Shamir would follow a sterner policy than Peres, thus leading to new tensions. Others expressed the opinion that Shamir might perhaps pursue Peres' line, which is difficult to depart from, in the hope of finding Palestinians in the West Bank who could be considered representatives of the Palestinian people and in the hope of perhaps entering into negotiation with them. Those holding this opinion added that certain Arab countries would contact Shamir in any case.

Our viewpoint is that Shamir's assumption of power further complicates matters because we are well aware of this man's mettle as a politician and a government personality. It is difficult to expect anything rational to emanate from him. We also have a full idea of the direction in which Israeli society is developing at present. It is a development which entails inflaming chauvinist feelings. We imagine that there are Palestinian groups in the West Bank, perhaps representing the big bourgeoisie, whose interests are tied to Israel. It is very likely that these groups will accept capitulationist solutions. The Americans are currently projecting the extremely cunning idea of a new Marshall Plan to develop the occupied territories through capital investment. This will ultimately lead to enriching the big Palestinian capitalists in these territories and is likely to draw certain Palestinian groups into the whirlpool of capitulationist solutions.

[Daghi] Do you think that Israel will try to penetrate the Jordanian position or will try to strike Syria?

[Naumkin] We believe that King Husayn is an intelligent and wise leader. He has proved on more than one occasion that he is a strong leader also.

He certainly has his own positions and interests, which are not necessarily identical with our viewpoint. This is normal. He is under no circumstance compelled to act according to our wishes. Therefore, I ask: What have the bilateral solutions proved? Let us put ourselves in King Husayn's place and see with his eyes what benefit Camp David has produced. He looks at Egypt to find out what the biggest Arab country has gotten from Camp David. First, Egypt has regained its Sinai territories. This is a positive gain, undoubtedly. Second, the Americans have given Egypt economic aid, thanks to which it has been able to solve some of its economic problems. They have also given Egypt military supplies and other forms of aid. But the experience has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the solutions have been temporary. Neither oil nor improved tourism can now solve Egypt's economic crisis. On the other hand, normalization of the Egyptian-Israeli relations has continued to be mere ink on paper. As you recall, the Camp David accords call for not just the restoration of Sinai but also the establishment of the broadest relations between the two countries. So far, the outcome is that even diplomatic relations are faltering and paralyzed. Where are the broad cultural and tourist relations? They do not exist because they cannot exist normally when the economic crisis in Egypt is so deep. I recall that, when I was a student in Cairo, life there was magnificent. Now, one finds it difficult to live in Cairo. In Egypt the absolute, not the relative living standard of the peasants is declining, whereas it is rising in the other parts of the world. In the entire Arab world, perhaps with the exception of Yemen, there is no poorer peasant life than in Egypt. What have the 50 million Egyptians reaped from Camp David? It is true that they may be feeling safe from Israel. But this does not give the Egyptian people's general life anything tangible. If Camp David has not solved the Egyptian people's problems, then how can one talk about its potential for solving Arab problems generally? Even Egypt's return to the Arab ranks -- a return begun several years ago -- is not occurring as a result of Camp David but because of Egypt's position toward the Iraq-Iran war. By the way, if there is an issue that unites Arab ranks somewhat, it is this tragic Iraq-Iran war, because Iraq is taking a just position nowadays. Therefore, King Husayn is certainly aware where bilateral agreements lead. They lead to further deterioration and to increased subservience to the United States as long as Washington is the sole guarantor of such agreements. Therefore the solution lies -- and this is our conviction in collective agreements only.

Because King Husayn is, as I have already noted, a wise leader, I am confident that he knows what he wants. He is playing an intelligent political game. We do not deny that his position contains positive elements. He always supports the Soviet viewpoint on the mechanism for settling the Middle East problem through an international conference. King Husayn is in constant contact with the Soviet Union. I repeat that he is skillful in political maneuvers. This is one of the characteristics of his political method, and it must be taken into consideration when assessing the Jordanian monarch's position.

[Daghi] In such an extremely complex situation as you have described, how can the international conference concept be materiali

[Naumkin] I cannot say that I am very optimistic in this respect. This is why new elements have developed in the Soviet position. These elements began to surface nearly 2 years ago. You must have noticed that the Soviet foreign policy has become more vigorous and effective since our new leadership assumed power. This policy now moves quickly to respond to developments and changes in all parts of the world.

Even though the Soviet position on the Middle East crisis remains constant in principle and even though the principles contained in Brezhnev's program continue to be present as principles, what is new in the Soviet position can be summed up in the emphasis on the preparatory steps. This is reflected in the new ideas produced by the Gorbachev-Mitterrand meeting on the preparatory committee for the international conference. In our interpretation of the international conference, we do not mean that all the parties concerned must meet around the same table at a given time to negotiate. The international conference does not preclude bilateral contacts between the parties concerned. Within the framework of the conference, the principle of contact between Jordan, for example, and Israel must be accepted. There is no objection, either, to the formation of bilateral committees within this framework. But all these moves must form the instrument needed to solve all the problems entangled with the general concept of the Middle East crisis. This scenario of ours differs from the U.S. scenario projected by Richard Murphy and that projected by Shimon Peres, who has demanded restoration of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union as a price for the conference. The latter scenario presumes that the international conference must be a meeting attended by the parties concerned so that they can merely sign existing bilateral agreements. Frankly, the Soviet Union does not like the idea of such a conference because it practically means eliminating the Soviet Union from the settlement process. An international conference according to this scenario will mean imposing the U.S.-Israeli plan on the Arabs -- which is something neither the Arabs nor the Soviet Union want. No, the conference must be a place to which all come "unsaddled" to discuss and then to agree on the formulas, means, and instruments leading to a settlement. It is possible to prepare for the conference following all paths and using all means. I will add that the preparatory committee idea is met with acceptance in the Arab world in the West also. For example, I do not believe that it was a coincidence that the sounds of explosions rose in Paris in the wake of France's acceptance of the preparatory committee idea. We link this suspect bombing campaign directly with the French position.

The other important principle, in our view, is PLO participation. I recall that, when I visited London in 1983 and met with representatives of the British Foreign Office, they told me that people in the West had considered the Arabs partners of the Europeans when the Venice declaration was issued. But now, the British have said, they do not feel that this partner exists, either in the shape of the Arab regime or in the PLO. Where is the Arab partner to be found?

So much for the British. As for the Americans, they tell us frankly: Wait until the Arabs reconsider the rabat summit resolution acknowledging the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and then you will see how your diplomatic efforts to hold the international conference will collapse in an instant and you will be back to square one.

We do not agree with this opinion. However, it does reflect the West's endeavors to achieve a specific political objective, namely to compel the Arabs to back down from the mandate they have given to the PLO.

[Daghi] While we are on the subject of the PLO crisis, what is the Soviet position on that crisis, and do you still support 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO?

[Naumkin] It is my opinion that some change can be seen in the positions. First, it seems to us that 'Arafat and his supporters have recently begun to realize that the Amman agreement will not lead to a settlement. The reason for this lies primarily in the position of the United States, which had been expected to feel extremely happy with the concession which it was offered but which it rejected. Moreover, the Americans ignored 'Arafat's step and ignored the Arabs' readiness to make the concessions which Washington itself had urged them to make through the well-known Rogers plan. We perhaps realize now that 'Abd al-Nasir was more intelligent than we imagined when he originally accepted the Rogers plan.

We do not deny that the principle of peace in return for land has its temptations. But 'Arafat and his supporters have realized that the Amman agreement cannot be adopted as a basis for a settlement because it contains the element of ceding the principle. This is different from a tactical concession. I repeat that this is impossible, primarily because of the rigid U.S. and Israeli position. Many Americans tell us: We are Israel's hostages. Well-known American experts on Middle East affairs tell us such things. They add: We are incapable of taking a position compatible with our interest because we cannot do anything before consulting Israel first. The least that can be said in comment on such statements is that they do not befit a superpower like the United States.

Some U.S. figures have proposed the following to us: Come, let us, in our capacity as scientists and experts, urge the U.S. and Soviet administrations that the former recognize the PLO in return for the latter's restoration of its diplomatic relations with Israel, thus permitting the PLO, directly or indirectly, to take part in the conferences and meetings. In principle, there is nothing wrong with this viewpoint. Let us also acknowledge that the Soviet Union is subjected to ceaseless pressure to restore relations with Israel. It is my personal opinion, which I think is identical with the official Soviet position, that it is not yet time to restore Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations. What will we reap from such a step? Nothing. The Americans, and even some Arabs, tell us that we are wasting our chance to participate effectively in the Middle East process

by supporting one of the two parties to the conflict. But to restore diplomatic relations with Israel at present is a political act. For us to embark on such an act, Israel for its part must take some step proving that it is prepared to do something either in connection with the Middle East conflict or at the level of reconsidering the nature of Israeli-U.S. relations as relations founded on the principle of hostility to the Soviet Union. This is a very important issue to us now that the spirit of hostility to the Soviet Union has peaked in Israel. But so far Israel has displayed no readiness to take such a step. Here, the Americans turn around and tell us: How can you seek to hold the international conference when you have no relations with Israel?

The second U.S. argument, conveyed to me by a U.S. State Department official during our meeting in Washington, is: The international conference you are proposing will lead to control by the radicals on the Arab side. You will support these radicals so that Israel remains isolated, whereas we, naturally, support Israel. The result will be a further escalation of the conflict and, perhaps, a new explosion.

This is a totally faulty logic, because preparation for the conference means fundamentally seeking ways for mutual concessions. This is why our position is the sounder. Let me turn to the question of the available possibilities to achieve this end. They are, first, the 'Arafat faction's backing off from the Amman agreement. This became completely obvious last August and September with the rapprochement, or rather union, between Fatah and the Democratic Alliance, representing the democratic Front and the Palestinian Communist Party. This union was achieved on the basis of the agreement reached in Moscow and then in Prague (the Prague declaration). We feel satisfied today because Fatah's Central Committee and the Democratic Alliance are working together. We consider this an important step forward. I believe that the Prague declaration reflects awareness of the serious situation in which demands are made to abolish the PLO's mandate. These demands make it essential to exert the utmost efforts for unity. However, it is regrettable that this union will remain narrow as long as broad Palestinian forces (in Syria) continue to be outside it. I will not conceal from you that we feel pained because, on the one hand, we are tied by firm and friendly relations to Syria, which we consider the main element in the struggle against the Israeli aggressor, and because, on the other, the relations between Syria, the Palestinians, and the PLO, to whom we are also tied by the strongest relations, are complicated. I do not wish to say that we support 'Arafat without reservation. 'Arafat is not free of "shortcomings." But in his capacity as the leader enjoying the support of the PLO majority, he continues to be its leader and nobody has been able to withdraw his mandate. We support the opinion that the Palestinians themselves must solve their internal problems. Let them decide whom they choose as the PLO leader, be it Abu 'Ammar, Abu Musa, Abu al-Lutf or Abu Jihad. This is their concern alone. It is no secret that the Soviet Union has been exerting effective efforts for a long time to bring about rapprochement between Syria and the PLO on the one hand and among the PLO parties themselves on the other. Our efforts in this connection continue.

[Daghi] Do you think that there is a possibility of mutual concessions among the PLO parties themselves on the one hand and between the PLO and Syria on the other?

[Naumkin] In principle, we do not believe that there are major differences, especially if we take into consideration the changes in the positions of the 'Arafat leadership. I believe that a fundamental part of the problem is summed up in emotional and personal factors, including, for example, the fact that the Syrian leadership considers 'Arafat persona non grata. Does the solution lie in removing 'Arafat and replacing him by another leader -- which is what the Syrian leadership urges? It is my opinion that this is a purely internal Palestinian issue. We must not forget that 'Arafat is a leader who enjoys broad popular support, especially in the occupied territories. I repeat that our role is summed up in helping about rapprochement between the Syrian leadership and the 'Arafat leadership.

[Daghi] Some people believe that achieving reconciliation between Syria and 'Arafat could lead to undermining many of the area's balances and that solving the crisis between Syria and 'Arafat entails the danger of a new confrontation between Syria and Israel.

[Naumkin] This is possible. But the Israeli leadership, though lacking in ethics, is not stupid. Let us imagine what Israel could gain from launching an attack on Syria. I will not speak of all the consequences but only of one consequence, namely: Any aggression launched by Israel now will inflict on it enormous human losses such as it has never experienced before. Israel is very sensitive when it comes to human losses. Even assuming that an Israeli aggression will bring Israel a military victory, such a victory will be scored at the expense of fearful human losses. No political leadership in Israel could hope to stay in power should such a thing happen. On the other hand, even if Israel scores a military victory, such a victory will evaporate into thin air sooner or later because Israel will continue to be a drop in the Arab ocean.

[Daghi] Assuming such an aggression does take place, what will the Soviet reaction be?

[Naumkin] It will be very effective. Let this be clear. Such a situation will be totally different from the situation in which the United States launched its raids against Libya, and the Soviet reaction will be fundamentally different. I shoulder the responsibility of these words. Israel is well aware of this.

On this basis, a rearrangement of the forces in the event of a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation will not result in a new Israeli adventure.

[Daghi] Do you think that the phase is imminent when Syria will take the initiative and embark on a confrontation with Israel, relying on complete Soviet support?

[Naumkin] This is impossible under the current circumstance.

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TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DISCUSSES POLICIES, CONTROVERSIES

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Dec 86 pp 29, 30

[Interview with Deputy Premier Dr Yusuf Wali: "The Emergency Law Is a Necessary Instrument"]

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the ruling National Democratic Party, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, has been the object of constant attacks in the papers of the opposition parties in past months. These attacks have involved all the positions he occupies. Here he is in severe disagreement within the ministry, there he, and the ministers who side with him, have been a cause for the resignation of the previous 'Ali Lutfi cabinet, and at yet other times he has sought to move on to the prime minister's seat, and would have been very close to it, had "the Nasirists invading the regime" not ruined his schemes for him.

On the other hand, the people in the opposition say, it is he who arranged the commission of fraud in the Consultative Assembly elections and the raising of the ratio of voters to 80 percent, something which has not happened in the past and will not happen in the future, because in all the past elections the ratio of voters has not been greater than 45 percent, so how could the proportion become 80 percent, the opposition parties' boycott of them, and their appeal to the voters also to boycott them, notwithstanding?

In his capacity as minister of agriculture, he caused the prices of local vegetable and fruit products to rise to the point where a kilogram of cucumbers, which sold for 2 piasters, rose to 150 piasters, a kilogram of mangoes rose from 30 piasters to 6 pounds, and so forth.

The invention by which he sought to turn agricultural techniques upside down, that is, protected agriculture, which is now called "greenhouse agriculture" in Egypt, has spoiled agriculture rather than improving it and raised the prices of crops rather than lowering them, in a country of moderate weather whose farming does not require protection, which spreads about bacteria and all causes of rot in protected agriculture.

In addition, Dr Yusuf Wali has been accused of defending the continuation of the emergency law and elections by the system of lists, for a single reason,

which is that it is a guarantee that the National Party, whose secretariat general he is in charge of, will remain in power.

Of course, when attacks on a given person proliferate, and when they are repeated without letup, the person against whom the attack is being made must be one of two things: either a very strong person, whose opposition joins forces to do everything it can to remove him from his centers of power, or one who is accustomed to rowing against the current, because he does not feel resistance worth mentioning in the countervailing current!

What is the truth?

AL-HAWADITH, through some questions and answers, has sought to arrive at some of the truth, and it is publishing its questions and Dr Yusuf Wali's answers without any comment.

AL-HAWADITH: Many people wonder about the reason why the National Democratic Party is stubbornly holding onto the emergency law in Egypt, although the circumstances which led to such stubbornness can be remedied by ordinary laws, if some amendments are introduced into them and if the struggle against all destructive movements at the right time, in the right way, is stipulated in the amendment. One should bear in mind that emergency laws are generally not carried out in some countries of the third world.

Dr Wali: The factor of providing security for the nation and the citizen will remain at the forefront of the responsibilities of the political leadership and the executive and legislative institutions in our country. When the focal points of the coming development plan, which included the realization of self-reliance, the increase in the production of the commodity sectors in agriculture and industry and confrontation of bottlenecks in the Egyptian economy in the balance of payments, the balance of trade and the general budget were set out, the focal point of security manifested itself as an inevitable necessity without which all efforts of development would be totally wasted.

Therefore, the emergency law, in the context of international and regional circumstances of which everyone is aware at this stage, will remain one of the necessary instruments for confronting the dangers to which the nation might be exposed, in accordance with the formula that the legislative power, which has the jurisdiction in this regard, has approved. In addition, the emergency law has not prevented or reduced the scope of the exercise of democracy and freedom of expression we are witnessing, which reaffirms the sincere nature of the orientation toward support for democracy and protection of stability, without any contradiction between the two goals, as is assumed.

On the subject of the exclusive connection of the emergency law to the countries of the third world, we as a legislative power and an executive power are acting in the framework of our objective political, economic and social circumstances. There is no doubt that in this regard we are benefitting from the experiences of the other countries, especially those which are similar to our circumstances. There are people whose economies grew and flourished

to a large extent with the exercise of liberal democracy, and when the element of security was neglected everything collapsed.

The emergency law is connected first and last to the attainment of our country's security in the context of circumstances whose gravity everyone can feel. It is not a sword hanging over anyone's freedom of expression and the voicing of opinions, and the facts affirm this.

AL-HAWADITH: The opposition parties have requested more than once a return to the system of elections by districts rather than the system of lists which was created a short time ago, first, because the system of lists has prevented independents from running as candidates, as if every Egyptian citizen were supposed to be a party member, and second, because the conditions this system has set out are in the interests of the ruling party, which controls all influential positions and can mobilize them to support it, especially when the slogan which is still widely circulating was "if the state land is eradicated, I will roll around in its soil." Why shouldn't the National Party respond to the opposition demand?

Dr Wali: The purpose in the system of lists is to link the voter to the party programs, by way of enriching democratic party practice and confronting the phenomenon of tribal and family affiliations which Egypt has suffered from along with a number of countries. The system was connected to a new stage of party pluralism whose basis was the mobilization of party activity in confronting the problems of Egyptian society and realizing its goals through specific programs on which the voters would vote.

In the past Consultative Assembly elections, which were carried out under the system of absolute lists, and which the opposition parties made the call to boycott, the lists in some districts contained one original candidate, making them totally conform to the system of individual elections. Why didn't the opposition go into these districts? Moreover, the coming local assembly elections will be carried out under the same system; will the opposition boycott them? I don't imagine so. The matter therefore is not so much related to the election system as it concerns other calculations of a presence among voters.

As for the talk about "state lands," assuming, for the sake of argument, it is correct, which I would not endorse in fact at the time we are in now, there is no doubt that its effect would continue under any system. In general, we do not arrogate the right of other parties to discuss and express opinions on the election system or other things. It is only holy books which do not admit of discussion. We must all just orient ourselves toward integrated objective discussion in a manner which will include all features of the subject and its effects on the goals and interests of society.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the committee of parties which gives or does not give agreement to the establishment of parties supposed to be a government committee or one made up of members of the ruling party, or is it supposed to be independent and contain members who belong to the judiciary? There are people who say that since the ruling party dominates the committee, it is preventing a number of parties from obtaining permission to pursue their activity,

although the political system in Egypt is a democratic one founded on the presence of a number of parties.

Dr Wali: The committee of parties acts in accordance with specific criteria and in a clear legal framework which gives the judiciary the last word as far the scope of its jurisdiction goes. The establishment of a new party moreover does not of necessity mean a diminution of the majority the National Party enjoys. The diminution might perhaps be on the part of an opposition party. The New Wafd Party entered into our political life in accordance with this approach, which is guaranteed to all political currents.

AL-HAWADITH: Many people criticize the system of nominating a single person to a given position, because nominating a single person means his victory by acclamation, which generally occurs only when candidates for a position relinquish their right to election and reach agreement over a given person who will be elected more or less unanimously. Does the National Democratic Party intend to be receptive to having a number of candidates for one position?

Dr Wali: We respect the existing constitution, all work in its framework, and do not find any objective need to amend it. There are some things which must rise above party maneuvering, in keeping with the values prevalent in our society and out of respect for them.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it true that when your excellency met with the leadership of the office of the state security investigator, you asked them not to deal with any of the bribery and similar cases before they were submitted to the minister involved and his agreement to them was received? Why should some cases be submitted to the court of ethics instead of being submitted to the ordinary judiciary? What is your personal opinion on the effectiveness of the court of ethics?

Dr Wali: That is one of the kinds of tales that some writers are propagating. Neither my party nor my executive position permit me to issue such directives to the agency of the state security investigator, one of the important wings of the Ministry of the Interior which with others makes intensive efforts, in silence, in implanting the foundations of the sovereignty of the law, in whose context alone it operates.

When I went to them with some colleagues it was with the goal of expressing appreciation for this role in general without getting into the details of their work, whose evaluation their legitimate chairmanship alone possesses.

As to the court of ethics, in spite of the political framework of its activity, the judiciary dimension in its composition and method of functioning has been totally assured. It has played and is playing a tangible role in standing up to the manifestations of corruption, the struggle against which, most honestly and without letup, remains one of the main characteristics of the stage of the current administration of government.

AL-HAWADITH: There has recently been much argument about the technique of using "greenhouses" in agriculture. It has been said that this system costs a great deal and leads to increased prices, and a number of experts in the

Agriculture [Ministry] have opposed it, as others have supported it. What is the scientific truth regarding this subject?

Dr Wali: Agricultural greenhouses, or protected agriculture, is one of the advanced technologies in intensified farming which a number of countries have adopted, including some fraternal Arab countries, foremost among them Jordan.

The economic dimension governs the application of this system in Egypt, same as any other agricultural activity. Economic sense among farmers is a well known, constant matter all over the world.

The first experiments of protected agriculture in Egypt have been successful, in terms of increased output by area relative to costs, as well as supplying some types of vegetable during the seasons of tightness (between plantings), or saving irrigation water if the system of drip irrigation is used in it. The time has come to calculate the factor of water as an important cost of production in the light of land reclamation projects and our need for every drop of water. In addition, this type of intensified scientific farming gives a real productive job opportunity to thousands of our young people who graduate from the university every year and whose admission to the offices of the ministries or the public sector cannot to a large extent be sustained.

The committee of policies in the Council of Ministers has taken a decision to expand greenhouses on desert lands and in new areas, out of consideration for realizing the great economic yield.

I have also reached agreement with officials in the Food and Agricultural Organization to hold a joint symposium this month to discuss the whole issue and hear all opinions concerning it in an objective, scientific, abstract framework. Heading the symposium will be our brother Dr Muhammad Muhibb Zaki, former minister of agriculture, and professors from the Egyptian universities will head all its branch committees.

AL-HAWADITH: There has been a complaint of a rise in fruit and vegetable prices in a manner oppressive to consumers. It is well known that there are numerous reasons for the rise in prices, the most important of which perhaps is the proliferation of middlemen which ends up making the consumer defray the profits of parties who serve only themselves. How do you consider this issue should be dealt with?

Dr Wali: The rise in fruit and vegetable prices is a phenomenon which one cannot control in isolation from the terrible population increase our country is suffering from, in addition to the rise in the rate of per capita consumption as a result of the rise in incomes in general. The rate of vegetable consumption in our country is one of the highest in the world. In view of the rise in people's incomes in general, we find that the people engaged in producing and marketing these crops want to realize the greatest possible profit. We find this latter element concentrated basically in middlemen or people engaged in marketing activities. On some occasions, we find that the price of a crop is no more than one-tenth the price of the sale to the consumer, which constitutes the defrauding of producers and consumers alike.

Dealing with this phenomenon is one of the basic assignments of the agricultural sector at this stage, in a specific time period. Our approach to this, aside from realizing an increase of production, is through the use of all available means, such as the use of high-production strains and the right fertilizer rates and concentrated farming, including the spread of greenhouses. We are also working in the area of marketing by increasing the number of distribution outlets belonging to the Supply Ministry or the agricultural development sector. In this regard we had a successful experiment, when we allocated the fruit and vegetable production of agricultural companies entirely to sales through distribution outlets belonging to the Supply Ministry. This had its palpable effect on realizing balance in the prices of a number of categories of fruit and vegetables and the agricultural development sector belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture, in addition, of course, to the Supply Ministry's outlets.

11887

CSO: 4504/86

HABIB ACHOUR, THAMEUR ACHOUR SENTENCED

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 14 Dec 86 p 7

[Text] Leading attorney Maitre Mansour Cheffi opened yesterday's session by saying that Habib Achour was accused of several offenses at the same time for a single deed, and that the costs of water, electricity and gas paid for Thameur from the company account constituted current practice among the managing directors who also receive a substantially higher salary.

He stressed that the car also bought at company expense was used by all employees for work purposes, and not by Thameur alone.

He then broached the question of the payment of Thameur's salary during his imprisonment in 1976, and stated that that was the approach followed by all states, and not by Tunisia alone. The attorney then went on to examine the relations of the Amilcar Hotel with the UGTT [Tunisian General Federation of Labor], and stated that it was only a question of the propriety of the latter, and that consequently the transfer of money carried out could not be termed an abuse of confidence or poor management, especially since the decision was made by the UGTT executive office and not on the personal initiative of Habib Achour who, "moreover, was very astonished to learn that he would be prosecuted for the transfer."

Maitre Cheffi added that Habib Achour was not a thief, arguing from the fact that the latter had not pocketed the money but that on the contrary he had given it to needy people.

He then spoke of the loans made by Thameur, saying that they were issued with invoices which were simply the proof of his good faith. Finally, he declared that the socioeconomic crises were what had brought the two defendants before the court.

After this defense, the judge thanked the attorney for having examined the affair in its various aspects, and asked Habib Achour if he had anything to add.

The latter declared that his work had always consisted in facilitating the work of state, but that in 1974 conditions began to change. The judge then interrupted him to ask him what he was driving at.

But Achour continued by recalling that he had been elected unanimously and that the secret of the strength and success of the UGTT had always consisted in the principle of freedom.

Thameur Achour for his part apologized for having been somewhat brusque during the session of the day before yesterday, and stated that he had done everything for the good of the Amilcar Hotel.

After that the court withdrew for the customary deliberations so it could pronounce the verdict.

After the deliberations which continued for about 5 hours, the court sentenced Thameur Achour to 4 years in prison for clear abuse of confidence, and 2 years in prison for poor management. It condemned Habib years in prison for complicity in clear abuse of confidence, and prison for complicity in poor management. The court, moreover, sentenced the two defendants to pay court costs and ordered the sale of their sequestered property.

The court was made up of Presiding Judge Abderrahman Bourghida, Court Members Abdellatif Oueslati, Ferid Sakka, Zouheir Iskander, and Sihem Souissi, Public Ministry Representative Abdelhafidh Meftah, and Clerk Mokhtar Gharsallah.

9824

CSO: 4519/52

STUDY OF ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY DETAILED

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 6 Dec 86 p 3

[Text] Electronics are now part of the daily life of Tunisians. There are few businesses or administrative offices now that are not computerized. This trend is spreading to the provinces. The municipality of Sfax has just organized a seminar on this subject. The "Telecom 86" exhibition is currently being held in the Tunis congressional palace. Closely similar to this event, telecommunications conferences were held during which Mohamed Hedi Merchaoui, general director of the National Center of Industrial Studies, gave a much appreciated seminar on the theme "The Situation and Prospects of the Electronic Industry in Tunisia." The following is a summary of his seminar.

"An ignored sector," "industry's poor relative"; these are terms often used to describe the electronic sector in Tunisia. This description obviously contrasts with its rapid growth internationally and with the position this sector occupies on the world market for goods and services; this is confirmed, moreover, by the charts presented below.

Beyond these adjectives and contrasts, what is the position of this sector on the eve of the institution of the seventh plan? What outlook can we offer? What are Tunisia's chances in this electronic age? At what cost and by what efforts must we be prepared to stimulate growth in this sector?

These are some questions, among so many others, that we are justified in asking ourselves.

We have no intention of offering an answer to these questions, and our contribution will quite simply be to offer some major points for a consideration of the prospects of the electronic sector in Tunisia by means of a report on its present state.

Investment and Jobs

Table 1, using statistics known in 1986, summarizes the number of certified businesses (operational or in process of realization), the amount invested, and the number of jobs created in the electronic sector.

Table 1. Total Number of Businesses, Investments, and Jobs
in the Electronic Sector in Tunisia

<u>Electronic Sector</u>	<u>Completed Approved Projects</u>			<u>Approved Projects in Progress</u>		
	<u>Businesses</u>	<u>MD*</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Businesses</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
Businesses producing for the local market . .	29	6.60	1,140	11	4.50	259
Businesses producing for export	18	0.52	1,936			
Total	47	7.12	3,076			

*MD = millions of dinars

Source: Study of electrical, electronic, and telecommunications industries. Technical preparation by SITEL, Volume 2, p 21986.

Tables 2a and 2b illustrate the minor importance of the electronic sector to the country's economy. During the last 10 years this sector has been the "poor relative" in terms of investment. This has resulted in few jobs being created, barely exceeding 3,000 employees for the whole sector. The relatively low cost of hiring someone in this industry (2,600 dinars per job created for 1984) illustrates the nature of activity in the sector (assembly) which does not require investment in research and design (investment in human resources with deferred profit).

Analysis of the sector (see Table 2a) shows that 48 percent of investment is directed at producing electronic products for the general public, 40 percent is for the telecommunications sector, and the remaining 12 percent is for the production of various electronic components. The majority of jobs created is in manufacturing electronic goods for the general public, a subsector that uses a large deal of female, unqualified labor (see Table 2a).

Table 2a. Total Number of Businesses, Investments, and Jobs
by Subsector (Businesses Producing for the Local Market)

<u>Subsector</u>	<u>Completed Approved Projects</u>			<u>Approved Projects in Progress</u>		
	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Outlay*</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Outlay*</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
Electronic goods for the general public . . .	17	3.062	820			
Television sets	2	2.632	140	4	3,812	155
Various electronic components	10	0.884	150	7	0.850	104
Total	29	6.60	1,140	11	4.60	259

*In millions of dinars

Source: As for Table 1.

Table 2b. Total Number of Businesses, Investments, and Jobs
by Subsector (Businesses Producing Export)

<u>Subsector</u>	<u>Completed Approved</u> <u>Projects</u>		
	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Outlay*</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
Industrial electronics	1	0.034	41
Various electronic products, and electronic components	18	0.186	1,895
Total	19	0.520	1,936

*In millions of dinars
Source: As for Table 1.

The Electronics Market in Tunisia

Table 3. Production and Added Value of the Electronic Sector
(in Millions of Dinars and in Percent)

Production						
in current dinars	19.60	22.40	26.70	29.70	33.00	35.90
in percent		14.30	19.20	11.20	11.10	8.80
Added value						
in current dinars	4.86	5.60	6.90	7.80	8.50	9.00
in percent		15.20	23.20	13.00	8.90	
Added value's share of production in percent (at current prices)	24.80	25.00	25.80	26.20	25.75	25.06

Table 3 summarizes the development of production and added value of the electronic sector or rather of the general public electronic sector because in fact, that is all we produce (assemble), and we can make the following report:

--Output for this sector is low, and represents only 7.3 percent of the output of the IME (Mechanical and Electrical Industries) sector, 3.9 percent of the manufacturing sector, and 0.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product compared with world output (550 10⁹ US dollars); our share barely reaches 0.007 percent in contrast with Tunisia's size (410-4 of world population). That means a share 20 times lower than our theoretical average share. Per capita, a Japanese or American produces 200 times more electronic products than does a Tunisian, and the Frenchman (and European in general) 90 times more than a Tunisian, whereas in terms of the production of goods and services the American or Japanese produces only 11 times more than the Tunisian.

--The added value remains low, and does not exceed 25 percent of output. This is an indication to us of the nature of production which remains restricted to mere assembly.

The outlook is even worse if one takes into consideration the degree of integration of this sector in our country. The most optimistic figures available place the rate at 18 percent, although one must define the concept of the integration rate applicable, given the sector's specific character.

Table 4 represents the proportion of electronic sector imports in relation to the country's total imports.

Table 4. Electronic Import Share of Country's Total Imports
from 1980 to 1985 (in millions of dinars)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Electronic imports (CIF)	30.50	45.50	53.80	68.80	66.00	55.75
Country's total imports (CIF) . .	1,428.00	1,866.00	2,001.90	2,116.00	2,509.00	2,132.40
Electronic import share of country's total imports . .	2.1%	2.5%	2.7%	3.25%	2.6%	2.6%

Source: INS statistics

By consulting this table we can say that:

--The electronic import share of total imports is minor all in all. It averages 2.5 percent, except for 1983 when it increased to 3.25 percent of total imports.

--Electronic imports developed more quickly than imports generally; the increase in electronic imports for 1985 compared with 1980 was 83 percent while that of total imports was only 49 percent.

Table 5. Electronic Imports by Subsector
(CIF and in millions of dinars)

<u>Subsector</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
General public	5.60	5.10	2.00	4.80	7.00	2.20
Telecommunications	6.50	13.00	8.70	15.80	15.00	6.50
Computer and office automation equipment . .	2.70	5.90	5.30	10.20	7.60	8.50
Components and various electronic items	12.80	16.50	32.40	31.00	28.30	32.00
Medical electronics . . .	0.90	3.00	1.90	2.10	2.44	1.65
Industrial electronics . .	2.00	2.80	3.40	4.70	5.70	5.00
Sectorial total	30.50	46.30	53.80	68.80	66.00	55.75

Source: INS

A detailed analysis of imports of electronic equipment (Table 5) shows that:

--The line item "components and various electronic items" (which also includes all imports of television sets and radio kits) represents the largest share of electronic imports. This share was higher than 50 percent for 1982 and 1985 (60 and 57 percent respectively);

--The line item "telecommunications" is in second place for imports. For 1983 the telecommunications share of imports was 23 percent of all electronic imports;

--The line item "industrial electronics" grew steadily through 1984 at a rate of over 20 percent;

--Computer and office automation equipment registered substantial growth in 1983 (10.2 million dinars).

9824

CSO: 4519/52

BRIEFS

GEOHERMAL HEATING SEMINAR--On Thursday in Tunis Minister of Agriculture Lassaad Ben Osman presided over the closing session of the national seminar on geothermics organized by the Tunisian Petroleum Operations Company (ETA-P) with the collaboration of the Italian AGIP-Africa company, and under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Energy and Mines. In his speech, Ben Osman first of all expressed his satisfaction that the seminar had taken place, and said that its theme "has an impact on exports in its agricultural aspect, a subject of interest and great concern to the government." While noting that the wealth of a country could be measured by its potential in energy resources, among other things, and that the study of this potential was part of the supply of wealth-creating resources on the same level as mining, hydro-electric and other resources, the minister observed that in the area of geothermics it was comforting to know that Tunisia possessed substantial potential. After referring to the various research efforts, actually very limited, relating to the improvement of crop yield in glasshouses by the most economic means (using solar heat beginning in 1976, and tests using the warm waters of El Hamma de Gabes beginning in 1981), Ben Osman expressed the Tunisian government's concern about the need to experiment with the feasibility of heating the glasshouses geothermically using southern waters. [Text] [Tunis LE TEMPS in French 6 Dec 86 p 2] 9824

CSO: 4519/52

GOVERNORATES REPORT 1986, 1987 AGRICULTURAL PLANS

Various Provinces Hold Annual Conferences

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 25 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

December 24 INA

The agricultural authorities in various provinces resumed holding the annual agricultural conferences today. The conferences dealt with the last summer season's plans and the preparations for the coming summer and winter seasons.

In Diyala conference, the reports showed that the execution rate of the last summer season's plan was 91 per cent while of the current winter season's plans it was 96 per cent. The Agricultural Authority in Khalis district announced that the farmers have reclaimed 84 per cent and 78 per cent of the lands fixed by the plan during the last summer season and the current winter season. The reclaimed lands were cultivated with various kinds of crops.

In the Najaf conference, the Mayor praised the farmers and agricultural authorities for achieving noticeable increase in rice pro-

duction. The participants agreed on the exploitation of the agricultural lands situated in Hour Ibin Najim and Bahr Al Najaf and the expansion in cultivation of wheat, barley, maize and beans.

In Basra, the agricultural conference approved the coming summer and winter seasons plan. It includes farming of 18,697 donums with summer crops and 51,239, donums with winter crops. It also includes growing of 16,250 fruit saplings, maintenance of 500 donums of forests, breeding of 440,000 meat chickens and carrying out of 700,000 cubic metres of earth works.

The Ta'meem conference approved the next summer and winter plans. The plan includes cultivation of 64,142 donums with summer crops, 922,718 donums with winter crops and growing of 485 saplings. Industrial crops and grains were given priority.

According to the plan 150,000 saplings of forest trees will be grown and 66 poultry farms will be set up in addition to four hatcheries and two sheep dealing farms. 152 fish farms will be opened by the farmers cooperatives and private producers.

The plan includes holding 62 training courses for 740 members of Farmers Cooperatives. They will receive lectures on animal breeding, combating animal and plant diseases and methods of irrigation and drainage. 210 meetings will be held and

6,000 agricultural pamphlets will be distributed among the farmers.

Baghdad THE BANGHDAD OBSERVER in English 28 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

Baghdad, December 27, INA

The agricultural conferences in seven provinces concluded today.

In Arbil province, the Ninth Agricultural Conference for the Kurdish Autonomy Region concluded with the approval of the 1987 summer and winter seasons plan.

The plan includes the farming of 1,478,000 donums with winter crops and 495,996 donums with summer crops.

The Conference decided to breed one million meat chickens and to produce 9,234,000 eggs.

The plan concentrated on industrial crops and encouraged the preservation of natural forests.

The 12th conference of Qadissiya Province took a number of decisions among which are the use of chemical fertilizers and expansion in the cultivation of rice, wheat and barley and maize.

The recommendations of the annual Karbala conference concerning the 1987 plan include the maximum use of fertile lands and providing of various veterinary services to preserve the animal wealth. Agricultural guidance was also recommended for farmers.

According to the plan approved by Wasit conference, the Agricultural Authority, the Dujaila and Da'aj farms and the two state farms are to cultivate 1,169,000 donums, 223,702

donums with maize, cotton and other summer crops and 945,629 donums with wheat, barley and beans.

In Diyala Province, the agricultural conference reviewed the plans prepared by the Agricultural Authority in the province and the Agricultural Department in Khalis District for the 1986 summer and winter seasons. Six committees were formed to draw the 1987 plan.

The three-day conference in Basra province approved the 1987 plan for summer and winter seasons.

The plan includes the cultivation of 18,697 donums with summer crops, and 51,239 with winter crops, growing of 16,250 fruit saplings, preservation of 500 donums of forests and the breeding of 440,000 meat chickens.

A total of 700,000 cubic metres of earth work will be removed from rivers according to the plan.

In Najaf Province, the 11th agricultural conference approved the next summer and winter plans. It includes the cultivation 154,455 donums with rice and 1,310 donums with summer crops and 27,161 donums with beans, onions and tomatoes. The farmers cooperative will expand its farms by 250 donums, according to the plan.

The participants agreed to giving more attention to fish resources and river dredging.

BRIEFS

PHOSPHATE ORES DISCOVERED--Baghdad, 23 Dec--Geological exploration led to the discovery of 3.5 billion tons of phosphate ores in some areas of Iraq. Minister for Industry and Minerals, Mr Subhi Yassin, told a press conference attended by local correspondents that explorations made by the Minerals Authority in these areas proved that the qualities of these phosphate ores and their mining conditions are similar to those currently exploited for fertilizers industry. The Minister added that the newly-discovered phosphate ores plus the proven reserves and the quantities to be discovered during future explorations would make Iraq one of world's major phosphate producers. Mr Yassin explained that the new reserves alone are enough to operate phosphate fertilizers plants for more than 700 years with a total output capacity of one million tons a year. The Minister elaborated that the presence of such huge quantities of phosphates along the electric power and sulphur, provide Iraq with tremendous capabilities in phosphate and compound fertilizers industry. It will also help expand the cultivation of more arable and reclaimed agricultural areas and make a maximum use of irrigation projects. All this will make Iraq a major contributor to world food security. The Minister indicated that mineral and geological surveys will continue throughout 1987 in search for yet more phosphate ores in other areas in the country. [Text] [By Clela Khoshaba] [Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 24 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

JEWISH FAMILIES LEAVE FOR ISRAEL--Nicosia, 3 Dec (INA)--Sixty Iranian Jewish families recently left Iran for occupied Palestine (Israel) press sources here said. The sources added that among the families was the family of Dr Saderna Moshe Arieli, a renowned Iranian jew. The emigration of Iranian Jews to occupied Palestine follows an agreement concluded between the Iranian regime and Israel which provides that Israel should supply Iran with various types of arms in return for allowing more Iranian Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine. Press sources in Vienna had earlier said that 100 Iranian Jewish families had arrived in Austria on their way to occupied Palestine. The sources added that about 100 Iranian Jewish families leave Iran weekly for occupied Palestine. [Text] [Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 9 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

AL-ANBAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS--The departments of the Local Administration and Municipality here have implemented a number of constructions works during this year. The works included paving 6 km-long roads in the districts

of Karabla and Rummana, a water complex with a capacity of 250,000 gallons per-day in Qaim district, two water treatment plants with a capacity of 60 cubic metres per hour in the districts of Rummana and Obaidi. Work is currently going on to complete the Qaim and Karabla water treatment plants each with a capacity of 11,000 to 22,000 cubic metres per-day. [Text]
[Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 16 Dec 86 p 2] /9274

CSO, 4400/102

LOCALLY MANUFACTURED ARMS USED ALL OVER THE GLOBE

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 86 p 14

[Article by Alex Fishman and Avi Kartin: "Israeli Bullets Whistling Throughout the World"]

[Text] According to international defense and scientific sources, such as the London Institute of Strategic Studies and the Swedish International Institute of Peace Studies of Stockholm, in the past 10 years Israel sold weapons and military equipment to more than 45 countries throughout the world.

A considerable share of the Israel arms deals are with Latin American countries. In 1981, which was the peak year for arms sales to South America, Israel sold about \$2 billion worth of military equipment. Half of the Israeli arms exports made their way to South America by the middle of the 1980's.

Following is a list of countries with which Israel has trade relations in the area of military purchases, as it appeared in western publications:

Nicaragua--A survey done by NBC in 1984 revealed Israel's military relations with the rebels against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. Information published 1 year ago reported that Israel had come to an agreement with the CIA concerning arms shipments to the rebels, designed to circumvent the U.S. Congress. Israel had historical interests in Nicaragua. It emerged that 90 percent of the equipment of the Somoza army, which failed to put down the Sandinista revolution, came from Israel.

Some 2 years ago, NEWSWEEK, the WASHINGTON POST, and the NEW YORK TIMES wrote that Israel had supplied the Contras with arms captured in Lebanon. In interviews given by several contra leaders to American newspapers they admitted that Israel and the United States are supplying them with arms and military knowhow in their war against the Sandinista government.

El Salvador--The government of El Salvador has been waging a protracted war against groups of leftist guerillas supported, according to various sources, by the PLO and the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. At the beginning of the 1980's it was reported that Israel had sold to El Salvador old French fighter planes of the Super Mystere model. It was also reported that Israeli aid to

that country also included Arava planes, Galil rifles, ammunition, and captured Soviet weapons.

Honduras--During the period in which Ariel Sharon served as defense minister, Israel supplied military equipment to Honduras, in which the strong man was Chief-of-Staff General Gustavo Alvarez. In December 1982 the chief-of-staff hosted Minister Sharon. Both the Israel Foreign Ministry and the Honduran government were not happy with that surprise visit. In 1984 President Suazo Cordoba relieved the chief-of-staff of his post. Israel did not stop courting that country; according to information published in Honduras there is an important base for training Contras and equipping them with, among other things, Israeli weapons.

Leftist organizations in Honduras claim that Israel has a few dozen permanent advisers in their country. Honduras purchased from Israel Arava aircraft, and Uzi and Galil firearms. It has also been reported that Israel shipped to Honduras 2,000 M-16 assault rifles.

Costa Rica--According to foreign reports, in this country, too, Israel has military personnel specializing in localized warfare, who trained the rebels.

Guatemala--In 1983 a detailed item was published in connection with the sale of 12,000 guns to Guatemala. According to that report, behind the transaction was the Israeli firm Yig'al. In August 1981 it was reported that Israel has supplied Guatemala with nine Arava airplanes, Galil rifles, helmets, and military logistics equipment.

Chile--That country purchased 1,500 Shafrir air-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, APCs, and patrol boats.

Peru--Purchased optical equipment and air-to-air missiles.

Bolivia--Purchased Uzi and Galil firearms.

South Africa--Is waging war against its communist neighbors in the north, Mozambique and Angola. According to foreign publications, Mozambique has shot down an Israeli made pilotless reconnaissance plane sent up by South Africa.

The military cooperation between Israel and South Africa dates back more than a generation. The two countries are working together on producing and developing means of warfare and many types of weapons.

In the past 10 years South Africa acquired from Israel six Reshef missile boats and three Devora missile carrying patrol boats, Gabriel missiles, Shafrir air-to-air missiles, RAM 1 armored vehicles, 155 mm M-71 guns, machine guns of various calibers, Galil rifles, and Uzi submachine guns. Currently South Africa manufactures warships of the Minister type (a version of the Reshef), 155 mm G-5 and G-6 field guns (an improved version of the M-71 gun), Korpion naval missiles (a version of the Gabriel missile), Kokri air-to-air missiles (a version of the new Israeli Python missile), and R-6 rifles (a version of the Galil). Israel is assisting South African industry to update and improve Mirage 3 fighter aircraft, and to improve 250 Centurion tanks.

Mozambique--The London newspaper INDEPENDENT and a London publication entitled AFRICA DIGEST claimed that Israeli advisers supply military training to the rebels against the Marxist Mozambique government. Recently, among the bodies of troops of the National Revolutionary Movement found near the border with Malawi, was found the body of a white man bearing a Star of David on his clothing.

Chad--This country, located in central Africa, is engaged in a bitter war against groups of rebels staging surprise attacks from the north--Libya. According to published information that did not elicit any Israeli reaction, Israel is also involved in the war in Chad. Israel is training elite units of the Zairian army. Several of those units, equipped with Israeli weapons, were sent to Chad to help the authorities in their war. French reports say that Israel sent to Chad Soviet arms captured in various wars.

Ethiopia--Items published in various foreign newspapers state that Israel supplied weapons to the Marxist government of Ethiopia in its war against guerilla groups. Some sources connected the arms supplies to the rescue of the Falasha.

Sudan--Also in connection with the Falasha rescue it has been written that eosad people have assisted the rebels in southern Sudan in their fighting against the pro-Soviet government. The French LE MONDE reported that the rebel leader received military training in Israel in the 1960's, after the Sudanese government had come to an agreement with the rebels. Sudan provided an important transit station in the transfer of the Falasha from Ethiopia to Israel.

Kenya--The Kenyan army uses five Devora missile patrol craft equipped with Gabriel missiles. That army also acquired mortars, Galil rifles, and Uzi submachine guns from Israel.

Sri Lanka--According to various publications, Mosad and Security Service people were dispatched to Sri Lanka to train defense personnel in the war against Tamil rebels. According to the same publications, Israel supplies Sri Lanka with various weapons systems, and has recently provided several Devora patrol craft manufactured by the Aircraft Industry. Sri Lanka's foreign policy is not always to the taste of our Foreign Ministry, considering that that country belongs to the Arab Rejection Front and demands that Israel should return the occupied territories.

Indonesia--The Indonesian air force uses 32 Skyhawk fighter planes purchased from the Israeli air force. Indonesia received those aircraft in two shipments between the years 1980-83, after the Aircraft Industry restored them. The Indonesian air force also acquired from Israel Shafrir air-to-air missiles. The weapons that the Indonesians received from Israel did not stop them from attacking the president and Israel.

Malaysia--Despite repeated denials by the Malaysian authorities concerning arms deals with Israel, at the beginning of the 1980's Malaysia acquired

Skyhawk airplanes from Israel. The airplanes were conveyed through the United States in 1984.

Taiwan--That country is currently considered as one of Israel's most important partners in the area of military equipment and cooperation. The relations between the two countries are not limited to the sale or purchase of arms, but include joint development and manufacture, too. The Taiwanese forces use several types of Israeli weapons and equipment, some of which were acquired in Israel, and some manufactured in Taiwan under Israeli license. Such equipment includes 30 Devora missile patrol boats, Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles, Shafrir air-to-air missiles, 155 mm guns, 120 mm, 81 mm, and 60 mm mortars, Galil rifles, and Uzi submachine guns. Taiwan also purchases electronic equipment and various types of ammunition.

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MK GE'ULA KOHEN INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL, PERSONAL VIEWS

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 207 19 Nov 86 pp 30-33

[Nahum Barne's interview with MK Ge'ula Kohen: "What Do They Want from Ge'ula Kohen?"]

[Text] Possibly the only quarrel between the left and the right in Israel is a quarrel about legitimacy. About the other issues--peace and war, Jews and Arabs, territories and occupation--there are squabbles within each camp, if at all, but the exposed nerve that makes people on both sides jump when touched, is the issue of legitimacy. This is perhaps one of the things that can be held against the Israeli democracy as compared to other western democracies: 40 years after the establishment of the state and 53 years after Arlozorov's assassination each side still believes that the other has in fact no right to exist. This is the fire that politicians keep stoking up for their own purposes. It is with the help of this fire that David Ben Gurion preserved his party's supremacy for decades, and that Menahem Begin secured his electoral victory.

In the past 3 years it has been quiet. Begin left, the Lebanon war came to an end--more or less--and the national unity government by definition procured compromises for one and all. And all of a sudden the Mordekhay Vanunu affair came and stirred to life some of the passions of the old storms. Not surprisingly, the politicians who have seized upon it are the ones who found themselves irritated by the political boredom. Knesset member Ge'ula Kohen (Tehiya) requested, in a televised interview with Menashe Raz, not to appoint "extreme leftists" to the General Security Service [SHABAK]. Why SHABAK? Because Kohen assumed that somebody in the SHABAK knew about Vanunu's activities among various leftist groups on the Be'er Sheva campus and did not take care to muzzle him up while there was time.

The assumption that the security failure in the Vanunu affair was connected precisely to political views has to this day not been verified, and it is very doubtful that it has any basis in reality. As the transcript of Ge'ula Kohen's interview shows, she was referring to SHABAK specifically, and in particular to leftist groups that support the PLO, or a Palestinian state, or complete withdrawal from the territories, including Jerusalem. Indirectly, somehow, she also referred to Yosi Sarid, but, as it always happens, the tenor of the interview, and particularly of the interviewer's questions, left a deeper

impression than the contents of the answers. The Citizens' Rights Movement [RATZ] and MAPAM decided to ostracize Ge'ula Kohen. Knesset Member Haya Grossman even inquired why the television allowed her to be interviewed, something that naturally reinforced Ge'ula Kohen's victimization claim. The same parties that attacked Kohen were careful not to attack HA'ARETZ, despite the fact that in an editorial on 4 November, i.e., before the interview with Ge'ula Kohen, the paper wrote: "Vital installations must bar the employment of people whose political views may tempt them to transfer their principles from the sphere of ideology to that of action." Refa'el Eytan, Ge'ula Kohen's faction colleague and a foe of Mr Shilo in the internal quarrel within the Tehiya, supported her in internal discussions, but then, on second consideration, distanced himself from her publicly. Eytan has comrades-in-arms in kibbutzim of the HaShomer HaTza'ir who never let him down in battle, so why should he doubt their patriotism.

In this interview we sought to shift MK Kohen's attention from current affairs to her basic beliefs. She seemed to have difficulties doing so; at present she is totally immersed in the internal struggle within Tehiya, about which she refuses to talk. There also seems to be a good measure of competitiveness in her against MK Yosi Sarid, who has been attracting so much attention. She had been particularly irked by a piece published by Dan Margalit about a RATZ press release based on secret information from a meeting of SHABAK top leadership. Only a clairvoyant could tell what Ge'ula Kohen is more furious about, SHABAK leaks, or the fact that the information was leaked to Yosi Sarid.

Ge'ula Kohen had an opportunity to go over her answers in the present interview and was free to edit them, but she made very few changes.

Who Is a Leftist

[Question] When you talk about the extreme left, who are you actually referring to?

[Answer] Every definition does an injustice to somebody, but we cannot live without definitions or delimitations. Creation began with delimitations. Civilization itself implies boundaries. The Knesset, for example, decided that in order to have a seat on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, a Knesset faction must have at least four members. Later it decided that it should have five, going every time by the size of RAKAH. At the time Ben-Gurion said that MAPAM activists cannot be accepted to IDF intelligence. That was the reason that in the early 1950's he did not want to allow Yuval Ne'eman to serve as deputy chief of Army Intelligence, and he relented only upon being reassured that Ne'eman was not active in MAPAM. He allowed former members of ETZEL and LEHI in the Mosad, where the enemy is a foreign enemy, but not in SHABAK. He did not want them dealing with domestic matters. Criteria have been established for Russian immigrants: they cannot be employed in any sensitive organization in the first 2 years after their arrival, and never mind that among them there are people who had sat in jail for Zionist activities! Why? Because there are criteria. Therefore, any delimitation I may name will do an injustice to someone. Nevertheless, I must set boundaries. In my view, for example, an extreme leftist is anyone who believes in one of the following three things: that the PLO is a legitimate representative, that we must

negotiate with it instead of fighting, that without a Palestinian state we have no right to exist, and that we can give up Jerusalem.

[Question] And whoever believes in those things should not be allowed to work at the Dimona nuclear reactor, for example?

[Answer] I do not know about the nuclear reactor. I said SHABAK. And by the way, today, too, there are political criteria about employment in SHABAK. Any applicant is asked about his views and his past. They will not accept a person from KAKH, for example, or from the Progressive List. If the nuclear reactor or certain jobs are defined as secret, then the same should apply.

And anyway, why should people who believe that we should meet with the PLO work at SHABAK, whose job is to prevent contact with the PLO? Many people share my opinion, but they do not talk. I went less far than the author of the HA'ARETZ editorial, but about me they will write that I am a Stalinist and out on a witch hunt.

[Question] It would seem that, according to your definition, RATZ and MAPAM do not belong to what you describe as the extreme left. Why did you attack them?

[Answer] I did not say RATZ and I did not say MAPAM. You can read the transcript of my television interview yourself. Had I been rejecting the left, my critics would have been justified, and I would have criticized Ge'ula Kohen with them. What do they want from me? Yosi Sarid himself accused SHABAK in connection with the Jewish underground, to the effect that some people are not interested in apprehending the underground. He was of the opinion that those people should be fired from SHABAK.

[Question] I want to understand this clearly: in your opinion, Yosi Sarid could not work for SHABAK?

[Answer] I am not the employment agency. I also think that if he were working for SHABAK he would be facing a deep inner conflict.

[Question] You said that SHABAK must be purged. That is a tough word.

[Answer] I did not say purge. What I said, in a radio interview, was that SHABAK must be cleaned out, by which I meant removing those who need to be removed. It was not I who said that the political map must be cleaned of Herut and MAKI.

[Question] Yitzhaq Shamir, who tried to give you some assistance this week, let escape, among other things, one sentence to the effect that all those who support the idea of a Palestinian state are, in his view, traitors. Do you think so, too?

[Answer] My view is that anyone who thinks so should fight for his opinions, get to the Knesset, become prime minister, and implement his beliefs. Today the country does not think so. This view means the destruction of the State of Israel and its ruin.

[Question] It was this unfortunate omission, Mordekhay Vanunu, who caused you to seek leftists in SHABAK. What is the connection?

[Answer] It was a combination of factors. The Vanunu affair only made them come to light and triggered the alarm. I thought to myself, wait a minute, perhaps the young man who saw Vanunu march with a sign calling for a Palestinian state said, so what, if he is on a demonstration does that make him a traitor? Since that happened to be his view, too, that made him less alert to the danger. I had already noticed leaks reaching certain special Knesset members, particularly Yosi Sarid, from the SHABAK top leadership. I do not know; no one leaks anything to me. During the time of the underground Sarid stood on the Knesset dais and said, I have information from a reliable source that there is a Jewish underground. If indeed someone from SHABAK leaked that to him, Sarid should have reported the incident to the police.

When I ask myself why my statements were distorted I have to reply that it was because the extreme left felt itself losing ground. People like Sarid, who know what is going on, need legitimacy. That is why they say, she did not abuse us, but everyone.

[Question] What do you want from Sarid? He did not meet with the PLO.

[Answer] Sarid is dragged down by his own words. When Sarid says that there is an occupation government in the West Bank, that we are the occupation, and that there is an oppressed nation he is meeting with the PLO. An oppressed people are fighting for their freedom. How do they do it? By actions. That is to say, terrorism.

[Question] But it was you, not Sarid, who in 1967 went to meet with (Palestinian poetess) Faduah Tuqan and discussed her aspirations for freedom with her.

[Answer] Faduah Tuqan never belonged to any terrorist organization. I told her, if you think that this country belongs to you only, then fight, but I say that this country is mine alone. Sarid agrees with them when they say they are oppressed.

[Question] You wrote such a beautiful article for KOTERET RASHIT about Winnie Mandela's freedom aspirations.

[Answer] I respect their opinions. Let them say what they think. But respect is respect and war is war.

[Question] You do not think that they are animals walking upright and bugs in a jar?

[Answer] Not animals walking upright and not animals on all fours. But I think that the PLO is a neo-Nazi organization, and with them the only legitimate meeting points are the courts of justice or the air force planes bombing their headquarters in Tunis.

[Question] Arguably the main damage done by what you said is not the political storm, but the 22 year old young man with the dovish views who, in the wake of your statements, decided not to reenlist or not to volunteer for another government service.

[Answer] Many soldiers will agree with what I said. There is a wide consensus on this. If there is a public discussion, the gains will be larger than the damage.

[Question] The people who make up the political system in Israel do not represent merely a collection of views, but primarily types of biography. You, for example, were in the revisionist movement from the age of 11. In the Tehiya you tried to break this historical phenomenon and to integrate people from your movement with graduates of the labor movement and MAFDAL. Judging from the internal infighting, it cannot be an easy task.

[Answer] This is the problem of Tehiya; this is both its weakness and its strength. This is a party that took shape in the field, as a struggle movement. We decided that it should be the place for all the bodies that view Israel not just as an area, but as the expression of certain moral and historical values. What happened is that the majority of the voters are from the national camp. Nevertheless, we are in favor of having all three roots in the leadership. There are problems, too. A party is led by individuals, each with his history, his martyrology, and his group of reference. There are problems of temperament and ideological nuances. Rafi is a man with a charisma of his own... The miracle is that it exists at all and we are overcoming the difficulties.

Feeling At Home

[Question] In the autobiographical story "The Story of a Woman Fighter" you described yourself at the age of 13 walking in the streets of Tel Aviv dressed in the Betar uniform and ignoring the mockery and hatred of the majority of people around you. Do you still have the same feelings toward the Israeli society as you did then?

[Answer] I have not had them for a long time. Even among the Zionist left, aside from what is happening now, I feel much more at home than in the past. I feel it in my appearances in kibbutzim and even in the street. I never ever felt hatred, never wanted to ostracize or cast anyone out. When MAPAM and RATZ announced that they were boycotting me, I thought, how lucky that we are not under the British anymore, or they would have turned me in. But to whom can they turn me in now, to the PLC?

In the leftist camp I acquired legitimacy during the struggle about Camp David, because I fought against Begin. All of a sudden they saw a person who fights, struggles, and is prepared to pay the price. All of a sudden they discovered that I can read and write, too, that I am a university graduate--even finished with high grades in philosophy--and that I can love. They had

thought that if the heart is on the left side, the brain had to be on that side, too. I told them then, let us see how you will react when I attack you, not Begin. Let us see, I said, if all this love only comes from hating Begin.

The walls went down during that period; I could hear the noise of the crash. Now they are being rebuilt, and I say: I was not startled then and I am not scared now. As for the people, they show me great sympathy. Not only in the Mahane Yehuda market, but everywhere. People come to me and say, you are our mouthpiece. We are behind you. According to the latest polls, I am getting more sympathy from women than Shulamit Aloni--who worked very much for women's rights--and even more from men. This constitutes a sort of popular support.

[Question] During the period of the struggle against withdrawal from the Sinai you thought the people were with you, but it emerged that you were wrong.

[Answer] I am not afraid to go it alone, but I do not have the mentality of a loner. I am in the opposition because that is where I can now do the most good. Perhaps one day I will think differently, but at present I think we must breathe down the neck of the Likud. I could perhaps have been a minister today and could have been rid of all the problems I have in the Tehiya. However, Tehiya is still important and I am important within it. I am not quitting, I am fighting.

When I was in favor (of a state) on both sides of the Jordan I felt that I was an extremist. Today, when I am in favor of a state on one bank, once again I am an extremist. The truth is that I am standing in my place. It is they who are withdrawing. They (the doves) are always abandoning me, while I stay put. If I were to struggle for the Yarkon, they would be content with just one bank. In my opinion, it is they, those who are prepared to concede, who are extremists. They have less legitimacy from a historical and Zionist viewpoint. Who was right, from the viewpoint of political realism, those who called for dismantling settlements, or Ge'ula Kohen, Moshe Levinger, or Moshe Dayan?

[Question] What do you think about the verbal style of Israeli politics, is it possible that the pronouncements are so trenchant because the debate has spent itself and there is nothing left to be said?

[Answer] I think that in Israel people have no sense of responsibility for what they say. One can say both yes and no at the same time. It is not the words that have been exhausted, but the thinking. People do not think in this country. Even the people in government have not been thinking for years and years. Permissiveness has invaded the thinking. The psychological justifying has gone beyond any limits. Everything is allowed. Everything has broken down. There is no spiritual dimension. Zionism without the spiritual dimension is not worth anything. Once I was asked if I am in favor of a strong leader. No, I answered, I want a leader with a strong spirit. In the national camp there is almost no intellectual challenge, while in the left the challenge exists, but divorced from Judaism. Not that people love the country less, but they are disconnected from the Jewish roots and from Eretz Yisra'el in the historical sense. In my opinion, this causes sterility. The cobwebs are not only in politics. For the Jewish people this is a tragedy. The theater...

[Question] Do you think that there is excessive permissiveness in matters of sex, too?

[Answer] Sex? In this respect I am in favor of breaking down all the barriers people want, but not in other respects. The American slogan, "Make love, not war," is destructive. The dream of the wolf lying down with the lamb after the Judgment Day is still far off. There are many wolves, and I am not a lamb. This American slogan has invaded our country everywhere.

[Question] You have a very sensuous approach to Eretz Yisra'el, you are physically very close to it.

[Answer] Close? Read what writers and poets wrote about Eretz Yisra'el. I love it with my mind, my heart, and my consciousness. Without loving it one could not live here.

[Question] A few years ago you said in an interview: "This week I happened to be reading in the Bible, after many years of not touching it. All of a sudden I became aware of how poor my Hebrew was, because of the poor language of the press and the Knesset." This did not stop you, on another occasion, from attacking Peace Now for using the "violence of beautiful language."

[Answer] We all know that violence is not just wielding a club or giving a thrashing. There is also verbal violence. And verbal violence is not just calling someone a maniac, as has been known to happen in the Knesset. Ignoring a person or looking down on him is violence, too. Believe me, the violence is not on the side of those who pelted Peres with tomatoes at the elections. They later kissed the hem of his coat. But when it comes to Peace Now, I feel genuine hatred.

I claim that this sense of superiority is unjustified. Why has Peace Now not built any settlement in the Galilee? In the Negev? That is no coincidence. They believe that I see things in black and white, while they see all the nuances, but when it comes to Ge'ula (Kohen), they see all black. No nuances anymore. Even on the subjects of liberalism, democracy, or government of the law I do not trust them.

[Question] What do you think they do believe in?

[Answer] They believe in Eretz Yisra'el and love it, but they also believe that peace is important and can be achieved through concessions. What do they mean by this barbaric slogan, "Better peace than Greater Israel?" Is peace better than unified Jerusalem? I do not appreciate all their demonstrations.

[Question] Let us clarify for a moment your stand on the members of the Jewish underground. A debate was held at the army reserve unit where one of the underground members who had been accused of murder served: whether, when he is released from prison, he should be given a weapon again, or not. What was your position in this debate?

[Answer] I would return them to the army alright, but not to SHABAK. The man has already proven that in a crisis his actions were ungovernmental. In SHABAK one must be loyal to the state, and they acted unloyally toward the state. Anyway, in the right there can be contradictions, there may be an underground, but espionage and revealing secrets to the enemy--no. Such things happened in Israel only on the fringes of the left.

[Question] Is it possible that the pressure you are bringing to bear to obtain pardon for the underground felons is an attempt to legitimize their actions?

[Answer] I am not justifying their actions. I think that the underground is a tragedy for the country, and that is what I said in Qiryat 'Arba. They acted illegally, were brought to justice, and now they should be pardoned in accordance with the law. Why? Because seated on the accused bench should have been the Israeli government, who did not protect their safety. Six young men were murdered in Hebron. In fact, Rabin is doing so now, and there is no stone throwing.

[Question] This argument, that the government is to blame for the oversight, you can also use to justify Mordekhay Vanunu.

[Answer] One must remember that they were not defending their private home. They went there out of idealism. They are not murderers by nature, but were brought to that situation.

[Question] Is there no political consideration involved here such as flattering the electorate?

[Answer] Categorically not.

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BRIEFS

SOVIETS MAY REESTABLISH CONSULAR TIES--Israel and the Soviet Union recently have been conducting quiet negotiations in a bid to normalize the relations between them. On the occasion of contacts made in the past few weeks at a high level, the Soviets expressed willingness to renew the talks on establishing consular relations, first, and to examine the emigration problem, in exchange for removing the opposition to their participation in the political process in the Middle East, including their participation in an international meeting. Reports on senior diplomatic contacts held with the Soviets in the West as a follow-up to Shim'on Peres's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevernadze state that the USSR is currently reexamining its position in the area. The Soviets even called Israel's attention to a television program and theater plays dealing with Jewish motifs staged with the participation of Jewish artists, as an expression of their willingness to reevalulate their stand toward Israel. Israeli envoys to various European capitals recently reported that the Soviets are manifesting growing interest in renewing talks with view to improving the relations with Israel and charting a more balanced policy in the Middle East. In every discussion the Soviets have expressed regret about the severance of relations with Israel and even about their complete dependence on Syria for everything concerning Middle East events. Senior political sources in Jerusalem revealed cautious optimism regarding the chances of a significant change in the relations with the Soviet Union in the coming months. They stressed that contacts will continue, and even pointed to the statement of the Polish foreign minister as a hint of a changing Eastern Bloc attitude toward Israel. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 86 p 1] 12782

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U.S. 'CAMPAIGN' SAID TO AFFECT SYRIA'S POSITION IN COUNTRY

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Nov 86 p 3

[Article by Walid Shuqayr: "Syria Hopes To Regain Political Initiative in Lebanon and Region Soon; Sources Anticipate 'Rounds' of Pressure on Damascus To Serve American Interests and To Neutralize Iran"]

[Text] Several Syrian allies anticipate that Syria will be able, some time soon, to assimilate the Anglo-American campaign being waged against it and survive the pressures being exerted on it.

Politicians close to Damascus feel that Syria will be able to absorb the blows thanks to its Arab contacts and by means of its political resolve to withstand pressure. They quote the Syrian authorities as saying that this will be reflected in the next few weeks in its positions and stance in Lebanon. Accordingly, Syria is seeking to contain the conflagration with which it is surrounded in Lebanon fired by parties which have made the most of the Western campaign being waged against Syria from the refugee camps, from fomenting trouble on the Islamic front to President Amin al-Jumayyil's refusal to make any concessions in contacts by intermediaries with al-Muhajirin Palace pending the outcome of the campaign.

According to favored political sources, Syria is pursuing a policy of reordering the Islamic position and strengthening national forces handling the situation in Sidon, while seriously reviewing the attitude so far adopted toward the Palestine National Salvation Front with a more positive approach.

Syrian authorities believe that assimilating the campaign and regaining the political initiative will enable resumption of serious dialogue should the regime so desire.

In this connection well-informed political circles say that one of the objectives behind the president's despatching of former Foreign Minister Elie Salim to Washington and the minister's meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz was to identify how long the campaign against Syria is scheduled to continue, so that the president can find out whether a continued dialogue through intermediaries has America's backing.

Well-informed cabinet sources say that the American-Western campaign may cool down for a while, but could escalate again, depending on Syria's reaction to

the pressures being exerted against it. The same sources, however, feel that the campaign could recommence and escalate into a new bout after some time has elapsed.

The sources feel that the campaign is being phased through successive and varying stages until final results appear. The campaign is related to Syria's geographical and political position.

Diplomatic sources, well informed about the Western attitude, agree with this view, saying that the American decision to launch a campaign against Syria could well be the main option of America's foreign policy under present circumstances.

According to information available and assessments by these sources, when the Ronald Reagan administration decided to launch its anti-terrorist campaign against certain countries, it was hesitant to include Syria in its list although all opinions were unanimous in listing the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The hesitation over Syria, following the Libyan strike, was due to the question of whether to consider Damascus or Teheran the next target of the campaign. Parties influenced by the Arab lobby in Washington sought to neutralize Syria and aim the next blow at Iran, whereas anti-Arab members of the team felt that Syria was the more dangerous of the two to American policy in the region, Iran being less menacing to that policy and to Israel because of its geographical remoteness from the other Arab countries and Syria.

The same sources add that important changes took place in the Department of State at the end of summer which favored the second option to neutralize Iran for the time being and concentrate on Syria. These sources consider that developments in the United States are consistent with that orientation for the following reasons:

--U.S. inflexibility in strategic arms limitation negotiations with the Soviet Union is likely to continue, "star wars" being a trump card to be used against Moscow to extract major concessions, especially in Latin America, Afghanistan, and the Middle East, where Syria constitutes a Soviet-influenced country in its political attitude toward Washington.

--The Democrat majority that emerged in the congressional elections gives greater dominance to Zionist and Jewish trends influencing U.S. policy, which only naturally contributes to a greater hostility toward Syria.

--U.S. authorities who were promoting a deal with Syria as being essential to any settlement in the region without which nothing can be achieved are all administration staff members, not politicians who can argue their point of view. Syria's political and informational presence, which must be able to stand up for the Syrian position, is ineffective, especially where such a presence is important in a country like the United States.

Accordingly the same political sources expect the campaign against Syria to escalate, only this time more slowly using the pretext of terrorism, creating new issues, and exploiting new circumstances.

The sources feel that the anti-Syria scenario could lead to a decision to launch a military strike, perhaps some time in the spring, when the campaign picks up and public opinion is gradually worked up against Damascus with Israeli public opinion being stirred up and made ready to carry out the operation.

Which of the two developments--anticipation by the Syrian authorities that the campaign will flag for a while allowing them to regain the initiative, or the scenario described by the political sources referred to--will become dominant remains to be seen.

13291/9716

CSO: 4404/113

SYRIA ALLEGEDLY BEHIND AL-SALIH'S ASSASSINATION

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 86 p 4

/Article: "Mufti of Lebanese Republic Demands Resignation of Rashid Karami"

[Text] The mufti of the Lebanese Republic, al-Shaykh Hasan Khalid, has demanded the resignation of Premier Rashid Karami should the security authorities be unable to reveal the identity of the killers of al-Shaykh Subhi al-Salih who occupied a prominent position in the Advisory Council. AL-DUSTUR has learned from Lebanese security sources that the mufti has in his possession a special report listing the names and political orientation of al-Shaykh Salih's killers. The same sources say that three assassins are involved, not two as claimed by Syrian intelligence. The assassins were trained in a military center located in the southern suburbs under the supervision of 'Ali Hamud, a colonel in the Syrian army. As for why Syrian intelligence decided to have Salih assassinated, information has it that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, decided that Mufti Khalid himself was to be slain because of the position he had taken during his visit to France. During his meetings with French Premier Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raymond, Mufti Khalid was not able to conceal his irritation at the Syrian regime's arrogance. Salih was killed instead of Mufti Khalid as a clear message to the latter to desist from talking about Lebanese unity and criticizing Syria's security plans. A senior security authority has voiced fear of a dangerous, forthcoming stage in the future with fundamental changes being carried out. The same authority has referred to the involvement of Elie Hubayqah, allegedly responsible for the massacre in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps, in the assassinations being carried out by Syria in the Lebanese arena.

13291/9716

CSO: 4404/113

BA'TH PARTY PRAISES USSR SUPPORT

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Nov 86 p 4

/Article: "Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Leader Sends Greetings to Central Committee of Soviet Communist Party"/

[Text] 'Asim Qansuh Arab Socialist Ba'th Party national secretary for Lebanon, has cabled congratulations on the 69th anniversary of the October revolution to the secretary general and members of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. The cable reads: "We extend to your great people most profound thanks for the sacrifices that have and are being made to ensure the victory of international liberation movements and the Arab liberation movement, and salute the staunch attitudes taken by your party to strengthen and reinforce Arab causes in the forefront of which is the cause of our Palestinian Arab people and their right to self-determination and an autonomous national state through a fair and comprehensive solution, ensuring the complete liberation of Arab land from its Israeli occupiers, far removed from any of the dubious, partial, and unilateral solutions being proposed for the region. We hail your alignment with the Syrian Arab people in their resistance to the vicious, imperialist assault spearheaded by the United States of America and Britain and your support for the Lebanese national resistance movement to drive out the Zionists and for national Lebanese forces acting for Lebanese Arabism, unity, independence, and democratic evolution. We further deeply appreciate your efforts on behalf of universal peace by your unflinching stance against the arms race and nuclear warfare which will inevitably result in a disaster to world peace and humanity as a whole. On behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Lebanon's militants we extend to you and to the cherished Soviet people our best wishes on this happy occasion affirming our determination to reinforce the bonds of friendship between our two parties and people for the sake of progress, liberty, and peace."

13291/9716

CSO: 4404/113

LIBYA, ALGERIA, NORTH YEMEN APPRISED OF AMAL 'MASSACRES'

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Dec 86 p 3

[Article: "Palestinian Delegation Meets With Libyan, Yemeni, and Algerian Ambassadors To Review Situation in the Camps"]

[Text] A delegation from the committee in support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon met yesterday morning (separately) with the ambassadors of North Yemen, Libya, and Algeria. The committee, which is made up of representatives of units of the resistance and members of the Palestine National Council and the Palestinian People's Unions headed by 'Awni Battash, director of the PLO office in Kuwait, reviewed the bloody events occurring in the camps. The massacres of the Palestinian people by the Amal movement and the Zionist enemy, which backs this repeated aggression against the Palestinian camps, make clear the political dimensions of the plot aimed at the PLO and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They followed the military escalation of the armed struggle in the occupied lands after acts of repression, violence, and terrorism carried out by the enemy in Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian cities and towns in a functional distribution of the conspiratorial roles between (Amal) agents and the Zionist enemy designed to achieve the American imperialist goal of forcing the region to surrender in order to safeguard imperialist interests in the region.

The delegation also brought up the Iran-Iraq war and emphasized the extreme and direct effect that it has on the Palestinian question.

The Palestinians in Kuwait and in every other place implored the ambassadors to work to halt the bloodshed and help the Palestinian people by getting the siege of the camps in Lebanon lifted and supporting their struggle in the occupied territories.

The delegation also affirmed its understanding of Iraq's position and its just struggle to achieve a peace in the region that protects the rights of the Muslims and spares their lives and value of Iraq's repeated call for peace. It urged the Arab governments to do everything they can to end the war and free the Arab and Islamic nation so that it can devote itself to the central issue.

The ambassadors were understanding and agreeable. They promised to report the Palestinian view to their governments and affirmed the position of their governments in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people.

5214/13046

CSO: 4404/147

SHA'BAN CALLS FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Nov 86 p 7

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the Prophet's birthday, the leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, urged the peoples of the world to adopt the religion and teachings of Allah, "foresake the worship of regimes and states," and establish a society disarmed of all destructive nuclear weaponry.

He went on to say that the anniversary of the Prophet's birth occurs as stormy circumstances beset the nation. It is at this critical time that there is a need to review the emergence of Islam which saved the Arabs from the "Age of Ignorance," during which they were made up of warring factions, just as they are today, until Islam came to unite their faith, ridding them of their tribalism and heathenish and sectarian differences.

The enemy, he added, has been able to seize this historic opportunity to weaken and gain dominance over the nation. The occasion has been chosen by the leadership of the Muslim revolution in Iran as a special fete, to be observed from 12 to 17 Rabi' al-Awwal, as a reminder to Muslims of the unity confirmed in the holy Qur'an and in the pages of history.

The divine call should be heard by all peoples of the world, who should collaborate to remove all sources of friction, conflict, and warfare and all forms of domination and plunder practiced by the strong against the weak. In Lebanon there is a dire need to return to the Qur'an, to history, and to the Prophet's biography to learn how to uproot rancor and lay down weapons raised by brother against brother and how to turn against iniquity and tyranny.

There is a need for a society that fears and believes in Allah and fears the day of reckoning. When the hearts of mankind are divested of awe, they become as savage beasts of prey, nay worse, for beasts of prey have only their teeth and nails. Mankind today possesses all manner of hellish weapons stockpiled in military bases encircling all countries. The threats that are hurled forth these days are harbingers of warfare that threatens man's very existence.

The speaker urged creation of a nuclear weapons-free society, which in turn requires a rejection of all forms of tyranny and aggression, whether international or regional or between brothers in a village. This is a Muslim call for peace for all and a refusal to surrender leadership to America, Israel, or any other such nation.

GENERAL LABOR STRIKE PROTESTS 'ECONOMIC COLLAPSE'

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Dec 86 p 17

[Article: "Lebanese Seek an Economic 'Deliverer' and Threaten Civil Rebellion"]

[Text] The Lebanese are looking for another Schacht (a German economist who performed the miracle of saving the German economy and was appointed economics minister by Hitler) to save them from an economic collapse and a decline in living standards which have begun the final downward spiral.

However, the legend of the heroic savior about whom the Germans still tell their children generation after generation is unlikely to be duplicated in Lebanon as long as the militias and their leaders control bodies and minds with the whip of sectarianism, factionalism, and racism.

Even the ideologically leftist parties, which used to move heaven and earth to protest any economic or social deviation by the government before the war in 1975, have lost their credibility and their power to breach the walls of expectation and isolation erected over social classes and factions.

The General Federation of Workers, due to a clouding of the prospects for significant political solutions that could affect the national economy, even this organization, which appears on the surface to be united, has surrendered to the political and social schisms now dominating Lebanon.

According to the analyses of some neutral economists, the most that the General Federation of Workers can do, that is, launch a general nationwide strike, will be unable to alter the tragic reality confronting the country. In the opinion of these economists, the strike called by the union and covering Lebanon from one end to the other was designed to achieve two goals. The first is to establish the union's presence in the midst of the turmoil created by the economic crisis and the absence of government and political initiatives to resolve it. The second goal is to try to arouse the people who are beset by wars and despair.

One of the economists in commenting on the strike in Lebanon asked: What happens after the strike? What plan does the federation have for a follow-up of the strike? What else can it do?

This economist does not hesitate to say that the strike is only a shot in the air which will merely relieve popular tension and nothing else.

A religious leader who agrees with this economist is Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. He said in his Friday sermon that the strike called by the federation will do no more than enable the people to vent their anger against high prices, monopoly, and those responsible for the economic collapse.

Union Anarchy

Alongside the General Federation of Workers are other federations, unions, and workers bureaus that arose from political organizations and parties. In addition to joining in the strike called by the General Federation, each of these groups has a special position and ideas concerning the appropriate action to deal with the economic collapse.

Just when the unions, bureaus, and workers committees of the parties in the eastern region are pushing popular and union activities toward forcing the ministers of the National Group led by Prime Minister Rashid Karami to assume responsibility for the economic tragedy, the workers bureaus in the national parties assert that a serious effort to deal with the starvation-producing economic crisis requires that the official responsible for the country's plight be identified and that its resolution involves getting rid of Phalangist control and forming a new government capable of rescuing and uniting the country and relieving its suffering. These national workers bureaus have expressed strong opinions on the policy of the General Federation of Workers. They emphasize their refusal to overlook the government's responsibility for the worsening crisis and disparage basic statements issued by the federation on the day of the general strike.

Strike...But...Disperse

The general strike against hunger, high prices, and monopoly was successful all over Lebanon. The fighting in the camps contributed to its success in one way or another, but those who closed their places of business or institutions and those who stayed home, although united deep down in suffering and in their desires, are simply instruments of action within the political and ideological framework of the militias in control of various areas.

Although this view is tinged with pessimism regarding the future of union and popular activities, there are some who regard the popular activities now going on, notably the general strike, as a stage in the struggle against the economic and starvation-producing conspiracy. Ilyas al-Habr, president of the National Federation of Manual and Office Workers in Lebanon, believes that dealing with the starving-out process and monopoly requires patience and the ability to cope with conditions, new factors, and developments of all kinds. He said that the strike throughout Lebanon is no more than a warning and will not be the end of the matter. We will be ready to engage in all kinds of mass pressure activities that may escalate to the point of civil disobedience.

Armed Economic Militias

Be that as it may, according to the owners of an apparel shop in Beirut who did not take part in the strike, a perfumer cannot repair what he himself has ruined. Said this citizen who finds nothing good resulting from the strike, only harm to the interests of both blue-collar and office workers: "If we collected the statements, speeches, and poems of the functionaries and the wise, and possessed all the money spent on meetings, conferences, and transportation, we could have fed thousands of families."

He added: "We need action, not nighttime speeches to blot out the day."

The fact is that this opinion is shared by the majority of Lebanese. Their feelings of frustration have begun to generate movements that emphasize direct action, for example, armed organizations that use violence like the Organization To Combat the Blood Merchants, the Black Panthers, Defense of the Poor, the Vengeance Group, the Committee To Combat the Starvation-producing War, and the Bread Guards.

It is noteworthy that the activities of these organizations are limited to West Beirut, Sidon, and Tripoli, whereas the eastern regions have not witnessed this phenomenon, which is marked by violence.

It appears that these organizations are able to match deeds with words because unknown gunmen have attacked not only warehouses containing foods and consumer necessities but also some banks, throwing bombs and packages of explosives in their direction.

Although some wise men think the violence characterizing these reactions reflects a triumph of the logic of anarchy over the logic of planning, the silence of the people expresses approval and the support of the innocent. Perhaps in an arena like Lebanon anarchy may be more useful than planning and madness more suitable than reason.

The Dollar and Bread

Bread has become scarce in Lebanon. So the voices of the hungry are rocking what remains of the buildings still standing in that country haunted by war and fear.

The Lebanese are gathering what remains of their strength and determination and going out into the streets in the hope that their voices will be heard by someone who will answer them. But the sounds of bombs, reverberations, and instincts are louder than any other sounds. Therefore, the daily popular demonstrations retreat from the sad streets without the enthusiasm with which they began and are replaced by the silence of wariness that is broken from time to time by news of social or economic tragedies in some city or other.

Who is responsible for all this horror? One of the demonstrators in the streets of Beirut shouts: "The dollar...the dollar. The storekeepers are starving us."

Are the American dollar and the high exchange rate in the Lebanese financial market responsible for the economic collapse and decline of living standards or are the war-ravaged Lebanese economy and the militias exerting pressure and driving the popular sectors to the brink of bankruptcy?

Up to now the "warlords" have been exchanging charges as to who is to blame for this tragic economic situation. But the ordinary citizen has begun to accuse everybody of causing the destruction of his home and livelihood. Therefore, protests have begun to be heard all over Lebanon. One slogan is shouted from East Beirut to West Beirut and from Sidon to Juniyah: "We want bread... not war!"

5214/13046

CSO: 4404/147

ECONOMIC DEPRESSION REGISTERS ALL-TIME LOW

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 13-19 Dec 86 p 43

[Article by Ibrahim 'Awdah]

[Text] Local and international news agencies and radio and TV networks reported that an announcement appeared in the Lebanese press early in November 1986 to the effect that many a Lebanese family with eight children is offering to sell them to whoever can guarantee their departure from Lebanon and feed them. This announcement created an uproar locally and especially abroad. It was a clear and frank expression of the despair and poverty that most Lebanese families have recently been experiencing as a result of the worsening economic and social crisis and the collapse of the national currency.

From the reality of the economic, monetary, and social situation and in the language of figures and statistical indicators, the following is clear.

1. The steady drop in the exchange rate of the Lebanese lira since early this year, which reached its lowest point last month after it was valued at 64 liras to the American dollar. Comparing the value of the dollar in the Beirut market at the end of 1985 with that on 14 November 1985, the dollar rose from 18.10 to 63 liras, i.e., an increase of 44.9 liras or 248 percent. This large and startling rise in the value of the dollar and other foreign currencies against the lira is obviously having an adverse effect on the standard of living and on the general economic level of the country.
2. The indicators of the high level of prices compiled by the General Federation of Workers and the government show that prices rose in the last 9 months of 1986, according to government and federation indicators, by 88.10 and 89.4 percent, respectively.
3. The number of unemployed rose from 175,000 to 225,000, i.e., an increase of 50,000 newly unemployed. This increase occurred during the latter part of 1986.
4. According to the proposed budget for 1987, the expected deficit may exceed 10 billion Lebanese liras. However, financial sources maintain that the deficit will definitely be more than \$15 billion.

5. The national internal debt (government loans in the form of treasury bonds issued through the Central Bank of Lebanon) rose from LL50 billion at the end of 1985 to LL72 billion at the end of 1986.
6. The balance of payments recorded a deficit of \$250 million at the end of 1986 compared with a surplus of \$200 at the end of 1985.
7. The extensive flight abroad of local capital in contrast with the increase in liquidity of the lira in the Lebanese market by the Bank of Lebanon without a compensatory increase in productivity has perceptibly accelerated the rate of inflation in the cash bloc.
8. The lack of government services for the public at various levels in the social and health sectors, the supply of electricity, water, education, etc., and the fact that the citizens themselves are responsible for obtaining these services.
9. The broadening wave of closures of businesses, especially those in the fields of insurance, real estate, and tourism due to the steady decline in the exchange rate of the Lebanese lira and rise in the foreign currency rate.

In contrast with all these negative economic, monetary, and social indicators with their negative impact on the Lebanese situation in general and the people's standard of living in particular, there are just two positive indicators of benefit to the Lebanese economy. The first is the increase in value of Lebanese exports, especially manufactured goods, as a result of the decline in the exchange rate of the lira. The figures of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists and General Management showed that it amounts today to about \$500 million a month compared with \$200 million in 1985. The second indicator is the decline in the rate of imports from \$4.4 billion a year to about \$750 million.

Reliable financial and economic sources believe that the aforementioned economic and monetary indicators are adversely affecting the standard of living of all Lebanese. It is no wonder then that after the American dollar was pegged at 63 liras, most of the Lebanese people are on the brink of poverty and starvation. Consequently, it would not be unusual for a social revolution to occur or for us to read, hear about, or witness a painful tragedy like that recently voiced by a Lebanese citizen through the media when he offered to sell his children for guarantees that they would be fed and brought out of the oven of the Lebanese war, despite the fact that in this situation there have been some exaggeration and inflation of the actual state of affairs. However, the cry of this citizen is a warning of even worse to come should the country continue to flounder about in its political and security crises and the Lebanese factions fail to effect a national reconciliation that will put a definite end to the war that has been going on for more than 12 years because quite simply a continuation of the war will make all the Lebanese subject to sale and purchase, for hunger is an unbeliever and unbelief and "worship of God" in this context justify the seizure of everything. Are the people of wisdom in Lebanon and the party and militia leaders aware of the terrible conditions now afflicting the people? Are they all aware of the serious economic and monetary situation in which the country as a whole finds itself? Then let them hasten to end the war before all Lebanese children are put up for sale for a cheap price.

INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS UP 48.74 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Nov 86 p 6

[Article: "October Exports at 555,533,000 Lebanese Pounds"]

[Text] Total industrial exports in October amounted to 555,533,000 Lebanese pounds as against 373,444,000 last September, an increase of 182,045,000 or 49.74 percent [as published].

The monthly statistical bulletin, released yesterday by the Directorate General of Industry, indicates that Saudi Arabia ranks first among importers, taking up 36.68 percent of all manufactures, followed by Jordan with 8.88 percent, Iraq with 6.71 percent, and the United Kingdom, which shipped 3.97 percent.

The head of the directorate's Technical Division, 'Imad al-Nawwam, stated yesterday that should the rate of improvement continue, the value of industrial exports this year is likely to be 2 or 3 billion Lebanese pounds.

Type and Value of Exports

Type of Production	Value in 1000 Lebanese pounds
Canned food	3,972
Other food manufactures	25,974
Natural and mineral water	35
Beverages	1,993
Apparel	106,724
Textiles	6,047
Tanned leather goods excluding footwear	19,642
Footwear	9,210
Timber	9,109
Wooden and metal furniture	2,438
Paint	6,032
Liquid detergents	4,059
Other chemicals	4,988
Pharmaceuticals	47,140
Paper and paper manufactures	6,924
Paperboard manufactures	39,128
Tiles and sanitary ware	8,952
Glass and glassware	11,201

Metal works	25,327
Aluminum manufactures	21,761
Miscellaneous smallware	55
Electric appliances	14,512
Industrial machinery and equipment	31,818
Plastic goods	8,161
Gold jewelry	118,014
Miscellaneous manufactures	22,317
Total	555,533

13291/9716

CSO: 4404/113

BRIEFS

FADLALLAH TO VISIT USSR--Mr Muhammad H^usayn Fadlallah yesterday morning received, at his residence in Harik quarter, Soviet Charge d'Affaires Yuri Soslikov, who renewed the invitation from Soviet Muslim dignitaries to pay them a visit. The two also discussed current affairs. Fadlallah has accepted the invitation and hopes to pay the visit at a later date. [Text] [Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Nov 86 p 4]

ECONOMIC SETBACK IN 1985--In its last report released a few days ago, the central council of the Bank of Lebanon noted that the local economy suffered increasing difficulties in 1985 because actual local production shrank while the rate of inflation accelerated. The lira lost about half its value, the standard of living of the Lebanese declined, and the government deficit increased. The national internal debt reached record levels. On the positive side, according to the report, there were the following developments in 1985. The balance of payments showed a surplus for the first time since 1982 because of the increase in foreign currency reserves held by the Bank of Lebanon. The volume of Lebanese foreign debt remained at the same level as in 1985, about \$180 million, while the value of the official Lebanese foreign assets exceeded \$4 billion. This is in addition to the possible growth of the agricultural and industrial sectors in the coming years. In plain words, the Lebanese have entered the age of poverty. Even the middle-income group, a group that used to constitute the social safety valve, has joined the long line of the poor. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Dec 86 p 38]
5214/13046

CSO: 4404/147

COOPERATION WITH MALDIVES INITIATED**Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 18 Dec 86 p 2**

[Text] The visit of the Maldives Minister of Commerce and Industry and Deputy Prime Minister for Defence and National Security, Illyas Ibrahim, will open the doors to cooperation between the two nations, said Colonel Salim bin Abdulla al Gazali, Minister of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

Mr Ghazali said that Mr Ibrahim's visit — the first by a senior Maldives official — will trigger a series of trade contacts and lead to cooperation in fish processing and tourism, two major economic activities of the Maldives.

After Mr Ibrahim's visit, Oman will be sending a delegation to study ways of promoting cooperation in tourism, an area Oman is now planning to develop extensively.

Mr Ghazali reiterated that the Government would like to see the private sector taking initiatives to promote tourism development, and said more incentives are in the pipeline for the private sector to give a spurt to economic activities.

The visit of Mr Ibrahim and his delegation, said Mr Ghazali, enabled an exchange of views and experience between the two countries, and the ground to be broken for future cooperation.

Mr Ghazali accompanied Mr Ibrahim when he called on the Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, Qais bin Abdul Munim Zawawi, and met with the Minister of Petroleum and Minerals, Said bin Ahmed al Shanfari.

Proposals for oil supplies to the Maldives were discussed during Mr Ibrahim's talks with Mr Shanfari.

Mr Ibrahim and his delegation visited the Public Authority for Marketing Agricultural Produce at Ghallah and were "very impressed" according to Mr Ghazali.

The Maldives delegation visited the Rusayl Industrial Estate and toured several factories.

The Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean south west of India, groups 1,087 islands, with a total area twice the size of Washington.

It is an Islamic state with a population of less than 200,000 living in some 200 islands.

/9274

CSO: 4400/110

SHAYKH KHALIFAH BIN ZAYID ON ARMAMENT, DEFENSE, ECONOMY

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Dec 86 pp 22-23

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Shaykh Khalifah Bin Zayid, Heir to the Throne of Abu Dhabi, tells AL-MAJALLAH: American Rationalization of the Arms Deal Is Unacceptable; We Will Buy Arms From the Eastern Bloc If It Serves Our Purposes"]

[Text] Shaykh Khalifah Bin Zayid, deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the UAE and heir to the throne of Abu Dhabi, emphasized in an exclusive interview with AL-MAJALLAH that his country will buy arms from the eastern bloc or any other source if it served its interests and that the UAE is not arming itself in order to commit aggression but rather because weakness is an invitation to aggression.

Shaykh Khalifah criticized the United States for its recently revealed deal with Iran. He said that U.S. arms to Iran simply mean more obstacles in the way of peace and an incentive for increased tension and confrontation between the two parties to the conflict in the Gulf. He called for a plan to clear the Arab climate and normalize relations among the Arab countries in order to end the current state of freeze in the Arab world. He expressed confidence that the upcoming Islamic summit scheduled for Kuwait would offer an opportunity to renew good offices and efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. He also said that the UAE has now passed the difficult period of economic stagnation resulting from decreased oil revenues. The text of the interview follows.

[Question] We notice that the armed forces are allocated the lion's share of the state's general budget. Why is there so much emphasis on defense? What is the role of the armed forces in the United Arab Emirates?

[Answer] Our expenditures to build and develop our armed forces are not so great that they are out of proportion to military appropriations in most countries of the world. They are considered a normal percentage of the national income. Man has carried arms since the beginning of time in order to defend himself. Actually, when man agreed to join a large society such as a family, a tribe, and a nation, he was in fact seeking a larger degree of safety and security. The creation of armies is a characteristic of human history and in the life of every nation. Having an army deters other countries from resorting to force. Why are we asked to be the exception to this rule of

nations? We must recognize the role played by the UAE and its efforts to build an army commensurate with that role. We in the emirates are not arming to become aggressive but because we know that weakness entices aggression. As we bolster our defense capability we only seek to defend ourselves, secure our land, and coexist in peace with our brethren and neighbors on the basis of mutual respect and good-neighbor policies. Let me ask: What would happen if we were taken by surprise one day and found danger knocking at our door? Do we say wait until we build an army? Are strong armies created overnight or do they require years of diligence, sweat, and dedication? Our responsibility is to keep our eyes open and carefully observe all the developments around us. It is a strong capable army that can provide the safety and security that we enjoy in our land. Peace is too precious to be laid to waste. Arming is therefore dictated to us by the circumstances and challenges that we all face throughout the entire Arab homeland.

[Question] Strictly from a strategic point of view, do you believe that Israel's atomic capability will assure its victory in any bout that might explode in the Middle East?

[Answer] The Arab nation, in its struggle with Israel, is engaged in a fierce battle with a treacherous enemy who resorts to every barbaric method and inhumane practice. Israel has repeatedly refused to allow the International Atomic Agency to monitor its nuclear activity, thereby persisting in its policy of rejecting the international will and refusing to unmask the true face of its hostile intentions toward countries of the region. In view of all this, we do not doubt that Israel keeps nuclear weapons even though they may threaten peace and security not only in the Middle East but in the entire world as well. It is the duty of the world community, and especially of those countries that supply Israel with technology and materiel and help it produce atomic weapons--it is their duty to act responsibly and halt aid to Israel in order to remove the threat of nuclear war in the region. Israel has persistently terrorized and frightened the Arabs and sowed despair among us in order that we will accept the status quo and be forced in the end to accept what we previously rejected.

The announcement that Israel has the atom bomb is merely part of a new form of Zionist psychological warfare against us but such methods do not frighten us because we have right on our side and righteous people have no fear. Israel's alleged nuclear weapons should not frighten us or weaken our resolve. Israel wants the shadow of the atom bomb to follow the Arabs in all their endeavors. The Arabs, however, are not afraid of military escalation even to Israel's ownership of nuclear weapons. Israel will not be able to annihilate more than 120 million Arabs.

[Question] Diplomatic circles place special emphasis on the fact that the UAE chairs the current session of the GCC and maintains contacts with Iran to end the Iraqi war in view of the UAE's excellent channels of communication with Teheran. How do you propose to use these channels toward ending the war? Have other Gulf countries given you the green light to proceed?

[Answer] Nobody aspires to bring an end to this tragic war more than the Arab Gulf region, which is aware of the gravity of the responsibilities laid on the shoulders of the countries represented in the GCC. The UAE has declared its rejection of this war since it started and warned of its grave consequences. It has joined bilateral, multilateral, and regional efforts to end it, vainly so far, but will continue to participate in any new efforts toward that objective. The final statement of the seventh Gulf summit held in Abu Dhabi reiterated the determination of the leaders of Gulf countries to continue working toward ending the Iran-Iraq war. We still hope that Iran will overcome the obstacles that prevent it from joining peace negotiations and that it will make a positive decision to express its desire to terminate the war. We also hope that the upcoming Islamic summit in Kuwait will offer an opportunity to renew efforts to end the war so that the Islamic nation might regain its being, health, initiative, and leadership of humanity.

Arming Iran Hinders Peace

[Question] Recent events and developments indicate that the United States is again betting on Iran as the main power in the area. The United States is flirting anew with Teheran by establishing lines of communications with the regime and supplying it with arms and equipment. How do you view these developments? How does the American arms supply to Teheran affect the security of the region and its balance of power?

[Answer] We have repeatedly called upon the superpowers to stop fanning the fires of this war and to isolate the region from such conflicts in the interests of world peace and security. But the special interests of these powers have caused our call to go unheeded. In our opinion, the availability of American arms simply presents additional obstacles to peace and causes more tension and confrontation between the two parties to the conflict in the Gulf instead of working for peace and security and stopping the flow of arms from their various sources. We in the emirates reject the justifications of the American administration which could have done better by supporting efforts to end that destructive war and taking a persistent and declarative position against it. There is no room today for any such disregard for the grave escalation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq. If the United States or another country believes that it will gain in some way or another from the continuation of the war, let us remind it that such benefits are selfish and narrow compared to the bitter consequences of supporting one party at the expense of the other, not to mention the impact it will have on long-term conditions in the region.

[Question] The agrarian experiments in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are the talk of many Gulf circles. In view of your country's experience, please comment on the viewpoint that it is difficult and uneconomic to maintain any kind of agriculture in the Gulf.

[Answer] Such protestations have waned in the face of agricultural successes either in Saudi Arabia or in the emirates. It is true that most of our land is unfit for farming and is in need of water and other elements of production.

But we, in the UAE and in Saudi Arabia, were able to overcome such geophysical problems by utilizing modern farming methods and by technologically creating favorable climatic conditions. Even though it cost more than importing basic foodstuffs, this experiment has significance and a future impact. With time, the increase in the world's population, and the monopolization of this essential commodity, food security becomes a weapon that can be used against any country. We are not looking to be a first-rate food producer but we seek self-sufficiency at the very least, in order not to fall prey at the mercy of any monopolistic cartel that controls the production and price of the food we need.

[Question] Does the UAE still use Arab and foreign troops in its armed forces? How long will this continue?

[Answer] The nationalization of the armed forces is a basic tenet of building the self-reliance of the United Arab Emirates. It is an objective diligently and studiously pursued by the state. The UAE has come a long way toward this objective. High command positions in the armed forces are occupied by native UAE officers qualified and trained, technically and practically, in the best Arab and international military academies. Moreover, our military schools and institutes as a whole represent a strong and vital source that provides the armed forces with technologically enlightened and educated patriotic youthful elements. We, as you know, are a country that lacks population density and therefore we bolster our armed forces, especially in administration and organization, with many immigrant Arab brethren and others from Islamic countries. We do this either by individual contract or by secondment from Arab and friendly armies. Be assured that the sons of the emirates join the armed forces in large numbers and that the UAE will soon legislate a draft.

[Question] Having established diplomatic relations with the Soviets, is there any intention to purchase arms from the Soviet Union or the socialist countries?

[Answer] To equip any army is a matter of vital importance. The choice of armaments is governed by certain considerations such as how vital and how sophisticated they are, especially in these days of constant innovation and of modern technology. We in the emirates have a policy of buying arms from multiple sources in order to avoid being at anybody's mercy and are able to do this, thanks to God's bounty of material wealth. We are dedicated to procuring the best armaments, with no conditions or strings, from whatever source we choose. We exercise our sovereign right to buy from the West or from the East. I reiterate that we will not hesitate to buy arms from the eastern bloc if that were in our interest and suited the needs and requirements of our armed forces.

[Question] You ordered the building of a naval base at al-Tawilah. For what purpose?

[Answer] The decision to build al-Tawilah naval base was to help modernize the UAE naval forces which are one of the basic pillars on which the state

depends for securing its sovereignty over its territorial waters, protecting the coastline which extends for more than 360 nautical miles, and safeguarding the national wealth of which 75 percent is in the marine areas of the Gulf and represents extremely vital economic sources on which our economy depends to a great degree. We are proud that our naval forces have been developed to a great extent compared to the naval forces of the Third World and of other Gulf countries. Their equipment and tactical level are on a par with those of any developed nation. Fifteen years ago, in 1968 to be exact, our navy consisted simply of a group of small armed launches whose job was limited to keeping an eye on the shore and controlling smuggling. This responsibility has increased with the formation of the UAE in 1971.

Clearing the Arab Air

[Question] How do you see the way to clearing the air in the Arab world in order to affect meaningful Arab solidarity?

[Answer] A working plan to clear the air should follow two basic stages. The first is to settle bilateral disputes. Efforts should concentrate on clearing the air and normalizing relations among all the Arab governments on the basis of trust, mutual respect, and noninterference in the internal affairs of others. The second stage will involve a working plan to lay solid foundations for effective solidarity that utilize all available resources, human and material, in a unified strategy to meet the challenges to us. The starting point is to end disagreements and get together on the basis of trust. These are indeed high hopes but they are not impossible. They are actually quite possible. The Arabs must accomplish this in order to have a better opportunity to regain our usurped rights and the respect of the world.

[Question] There is talk of an economic crisis in the Gulf caused by a decrease in oil revenues. Do you believe that there is, indeed, a crisis or just that the boom days are simply over, as some would say?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the immediate and long-range objectives of the industrial nations are to wage a bitter war against OPEC in an attempt to destroy the organization. These objectives include taking the initiative away from the oil producers, with the Gulf states in the lead, bleeding their revenues and resources and creating social and economic upheaval in their societies. These countries were indeed successful in undermining the annual revenues of OPEC members.

It is obvious that the industrialized countries are trying to wage forever their battle to prevent the return of balance to oil prices. Perhaps this is not all bad. These circumstances as a whole presented the producers with a golden opportunity for introspection and a reassessment of many of their positions and economic conditions. We in the emirates have been able, with God's help, to put behind us that difficult stage of economic stagnation caused by a 50-percent decline in our oil revenues.

We are able to absorb the negative variables in the oil situation by rearranging our spending priorities, rationalizing consumption, and expanding investment. It was lucky that the decline in oil revenues coincided with the completion of most basic development projects in the United Arab Emirates. It would be correct to a certain degree to say that the next stage of development will be different from the previous stage. The circumstances that gave us a boost in oil prices will need a few more years before they recur.

12945/13046

CSO: 4404/149

BRIEFS

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE--Muhammad Ghanim al-falasi, deputy director general of the UAE General Petroleum Corporation, has stated that with the recent startup of the 21-km Umm al-qaywayn pipeline the network for distributing natural gas in the northern Emirates of the UAE is complete. The 360-km network is made up of pipes with diameters ranging from 4 to 20 inches and with a capacity of transporting 300 million cubic meters of natural gas a day. The network will supply the Sharjah power station and the Ministry of Electricity and Water power stations in 'Ajman, 'Umm al-qaywayn, al-fajayran, and Ra's al-khaymah with natural gas which will be used instead of liquid fuel to operate turbines. He said the use of natural gas instead of liquid fuel to operate power stations in the northern Emirates will save about 1 million tons of petroleum derivatives which could be exported and whose value at current prices is estimated at about 100 million dirhams. Al-falasi noted that the 600-million-dirham network took 18 months to complete and was constructed by the German company Pipeline Engineering. [Summary] [Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Dec 86 p 2 JN] /9738

CSO: 4400/97

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BENEFITS FROM SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS EXAMINED

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Dec 86 p 6

[Article by 'Abd al-Wali al-Shami: "By June 1986, 7688 Families had Benefitted from the Social Security Law"]

[Text] Among the concerns presented in the letter of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, general commander, and secretary general of the People's General Congress, is the achievement of prosperity for society's individuals by firmly implanting the principles of justice and equality, which include attention to the service of needy groups in the social welfare sphere, which regulates the issues of social security and insurance for disability, senility, illness, handicap and work related injuries in development activities.

In this area, the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, which is responsible for social welfare, stand out in broadening the scope of social service and its conceptions, which are different from the concept of charitable and philanthropic activities based on individual initiatives that depends on funding from contributors to offer assistance to the needy and weak in the framework of social welfare. Indeed, the scope of serving these groups has extended to include the attempt to become acquainted with environmental factors for the sake of preparing solutions and putting an end to the social problems that have resulted from historical conditions, which the Islamic religion and the laws of the state protect in the framework of social welfare institutions for groups that have left the human work force and are outside it. It has become the duty of the state to protect their feeling since they are still a part of society and since the state cares for them as fathers or sons of a family in the society.

Green Light

In order to shed more light on social welfare, those who benefit from it, and the future plans to broaden the scope of welfare and to learn about this, we met with Dr Muhammad Bin Muhammad al-Qawsi, deputy minister of social affairs and labor, who first discussed the outlines of the letter of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, general commander, and secretary general of the People's General Congress presented to the prime minister and

members of the cabinet with the content of the response letter concerning social affairs. He said:

The letter from the president and the letter answering it were tantamount to green lights for the executive program for all the ministries, agencies, and public departments. What concerns the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is that the ministry put forward a new concept of social service that goes beyond the traditional concept that was adhered to in the directions of social welfare to our social reality.

In reality, the concept of social services in comprehensive terms is an economic and cultural concept. Social service activities extend from caring for the family and popular organizations to development paths on which social services confront issues of economic and social change to raise the morale of the handicapped who are the largest group who feel a lack of belonging in society. On this basis, the letter mentioned procedures for many issues in contemporary social service.

Expanding the Scope of Service

While the principles of human rights have had a great impact on the scope of social service in the world, it is necessary to regulate social security and insurance for disability, illness and senility. Providing welfare for handicapped groups, educating them, and rehabilitating them with the aim of integrating them, are civilized trends and a goal of development. The ministry in its turn must extend its care from treatment and prevention before the handicap occurs to vocational rehabilitation, which links the concept of social service with the concept of the progress of economic development.

Dr al-Qawsi said that the letter of the president was an incentive to classify the directions of social welfare. It has become clear that the largest group are those handicapped with physical disabilities, such as the blind, the deaf and dumb, and the infirm, who need more care to create in them a better feeling of interaction with their environment and their society.

Common Responsibility

He indicated that the task of social welfare falls on the shoulders of the official institutions and that the government is striving to guarantee a better life for individuals of the society in general and for the handicapped in particular.

Dr al-Qawsi said once again that what inspired the ministry in the outlines of the letter was the encouragement and support of cooperative action embodied in popular activities, charitable associations, and the societies and organizations of a noble character.

I have not forgotten that what is new is the social insurance law, which the Council of Ministers approved and which the People's Council is expected to approve.

We note that social security services have covered most of the villages and cities of the republic in the various provinces and that 7688 families had

benefitted from the social security law by June 1986. The members of these families who are covered by social security number 26,266 individuals. The total amount spent on them each month is 2,788,572 riyals. We find that there has been a growth and an enormous increase in the number of beneficiaries of pensions and social security assistance in the past 4 years since the social security law came into effect in 1981.

Development of the Family Center

In the area of the development of family centers, in which women and girls are to be trained in various women's activities, such as care for home life, consumer guidance, home economics, sound nutrition, the basics of child education, physical and mental child care, literacy, and vocational training. By July 1986, 985 women and girls had benefitted from the family centers.

In June 1986, there were 1145 children in day care centers. There were five juvenile centers in Sanaa, Ta'iz, al-Hudaydah, Ibb, Sa'dah, which served 1312 juvenile inmates by June 1986, compared to 1120 juveniles in the years 1979 through 1983.

The Home for the Blind in Sanaa held 67 blind people, including six blind women, who are studying at various educational levels up to the university level.

Home for the Handicapped

The ministry is also working on building a home for the handicapped of the three categories, with the aim of offering them necessary services and offering these services to the greatest number of handicapped children in the republic.

Recently, a project for productive families was prepared with the cooperation of the Arab University. This project will help develop the human capabilities within the family and transform them into productive forces that will contribute to economic and social development.

Most of the projects in the field of social welfare are being organized, prepared and implemented with government funding and with the technical cooperation of specialized Arab organizations or international organizations in various fields, since Yemen is a member of various Arab and international social organizations and agencies. There is interaction and complete cooperation domestically with relevant authorities, such as the Ministry of Health, the Central Planning Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, and the United Nations offices, through official channels in the state.

In conclusion, the concept of social service must be directed at building a framework for the society in such a way that is appropriate to the state's policymaking, which is aimed at meeting the needs of individuals who are old, handicapped or ailing and fulfilling their economic, social, health and educational desires. As handicapped, they have to face the issues of progress in the area of social welfare. The situation requires studying the causes and presenting possible solutions.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

AL-BAYDA' GOVERNOR DISCUSSES PAST, CURRENT, FUTURE PROJECTS

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Dec 86 p 9

[Interview with 'Ali Ahmad al-Hirazi, governor of al-Bayda', by Muhammad Ahmad 'Araman ; date and place not given]

[Text] In a few days we will welcome the year 1987 and the beginning of our journey of prosperity in order to realize our aspirations under the leadership of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, general commander of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the People's General Congress. The year 1987 has witnessed a comprehensive revolution in the development of the nation and its citizens. The fact of the matter is that the enormous achievements in all fields throughout the governorates of the republic are proof that the goals and principles of the 26 September Revolution have been achieved and that with every new day our aspirations are growing. In the province of al-Bayda' we met with Governor 'Ali Ahmad al-Hirazi who shed light on some of the issues and citizens' concerns in the province.

[Question] What are the province's most important achievements in terms of the projects that have been inaugurated and the cornerstones for which have been laid in the province during our 24th anniversary of the eternal September revolution?

[Answer] In the continuation of our celebration of the 24th anniversary of the eternal September revolution, several development projects have been inaugurated and their cornerstones laid in many regions of the province. In the framework of its 5-year plan, the state is undertaking many of the projects whose costs exceed the resources of the local councils. The local councils have undertaken projects that will be inaugurated and the cornerstones of which will be laid. There is also the rural development project in Rada'.

[Question] The city of al-Bayda' has worked on solving the water problem from which it was suffering. How was this done?

[Answer] The city has suffered since 1984 from the water crisis because of the lack of rainfall, which led to the depletion of water in the wells that took care of the water needs of the city. However, we pursued the relevant agencies, which undertook to dig several wells, of which three were

successful. In addition, the Public Water Administration extended pipes from these wells and installed pumps. The new project began operating this week.

The guidance of His Excellency Commander Secretary-General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has had an important impact on the realization of this project. In addition, al-Diq Dam, which will guarantee the water that the city and surrounding villages need through the retention of rain water, will be constructed.

The bidding on the dam has been announced so that construction work on it may start at the beginning of 1987.

[Question] The state is interested in agriculture. What are the province's plans in this area?

[Answer] The construction of al-Diq Dam, which will cost more than 16 million riyals, is among the most important of the agricultural projects in al-Bayda'. The retention of rain water will necessarily lead to the irrigation of much agricultural land, in addition to guaranteeing drinking water. Likewise, there are agricultural accomplishments that are being realized through the rural development project in Bayda' in several areas, such as roads, the construction of informational centers, and nurseries that include many fruit-bearing and other kinds of trees. Within the framework of the 5-year plan, this project will soon expand its activities throughout the province.

[Question] Are solutions to the sewage problem anticipated? We have learned that the cornerstone has been laid to carry out the project.

[Answer] The sewage issue to which you refer is not new. It is a problem from which the city suffers. However, through the agencies concerned with the matter, we have worked to solve this problem and the cornerstone has indeed been laid. The sewage station and work on the main line, which will carry all refuse to this station, has been completed. However, the position of the citizen has been that of an observer. It is necessary that everyone cooperate by participating and working together to put an end to such a problem.

[Question] What solutions have you undertaken to establish legal courts throughout the province? We have heard about concentrated efforts in this area.

[Answer] A complete survey of the administrative units in which there are no legal courts has been completed with the Ministry of Justice so that administrative units of high population density will be covered by the courts.

[Question] The People's Congress in the province held a meeting that you chaired. What were the results of this meeting, which, along with the democratic progress of our country, will of course benefit the residents of the province?

[Answer] The fruits of the outcome of this meeting will become evident in the coming months, when subcommittees of the General People's Congress and local councils will follow up what was suggested during the meeting. Some of the

subcommittees and local councils have begun to realize good results, especially in limiting the high level of dowries and the parental issue.

[Question] The province has gained many things through the presence of branch offices of ministries and institutions. How do you view this matter?

[Answer] The absence of branch offices of ministries and agencies was an important factor in the inadequacies of the services that these branch offices perform. This year we have worked on completing the administrative framework and establishing branch offices for most of the ministries and agencies. There is a district attorney's office, a central comptrolling and accounting agency, a religious services and administrative reform branch office, and a branch of the Public Administration of Foreign Trade. All these agencies will doubtlessly play an important role, each in its area of expertise. Indeed, some of these branch offices have already carried out considerable activities, such as the Public Administration of Foreign Trade, which supplies foodstuffs and cement, and the branch office of the central comptrolling and accounting agency, which is playing an important role in overseeing revenues and expenditures.

[Question] What are the results that have been achieved to increase revenues? We have become aware of rapid efforts recently in this area.

[Answer] Outstanding results have been achieved in increasing revenues, both through taxes and duties. Compared with the year 1985-86, we find, for example, that taxes increased during the period from January to June 1986 by 14 percent over the stipulated amount and compared to the same period in the previous year, 1985. It is noted that the rate of increase was 66 percent. Likewise, in the area of duties, we find that the rate of increase of the period from January to June 1986 was 43 percent over the stipulated amount. In comparison with the same period in 1985, we notice that the rate of increase was 51 percent.

There is no doubt that such an increase, which indicates an increase in revenues, will help improve the situation of those agencies that still need qualified cadres working together to continue the successes and to eliminate the shortcomings.

[Question] Could you direct a last word to the citizens in conclusion of our interview?

[Answer] There is no last word other than my call to all my brother citizens concerning the necessity to work together and cooperate with the official agencies and with the local councils so that they may fulfill their roles in realizing more of the September accomplishments that we all seek.

13292

CSO: 4404/158

RELATIONS WITH MUSLIM WORLD REVIEWED

Istanbul MILLI GAZETE (Supplement) in Turkish 5 Nov 86
pp 15-16, 7

[Interview with Gulbeddin Hikmetyar, Muslim Afghan representative to International Conference on Economic Integration of the Muslim World, Istanbul 11-12 Oct 86, by Mustafa Ozcan]

[Text] Seeing Hikmetyar in person confirms one's impressions that he is a different kind of man...I have met many people in my life but, in all honesty, I can say that I have never met anyone so modest, so full of faith and genuine a person as Hikmetyar. This is probably due to the fact that he comes from the real battlefield...Everything about him seems to say that he has known life and Islam not inside luxury hotels but at the front, and amidst want and poverty.

We had been reading about Hikmetyar and were aware of his erudition through his publications, but until we met him face to face we didn't know who he really was. We have been trying to meet him for some time and had sought the good offices of Abdulgaffar to that end. At long last and after many attempts we were able to meet him.

Hikmetyar generally resides in Peshawar and periodically reviews the battlefronts in Afghanistan. An engineering graduate of Kabul University, he has worked within the Islamic movement since his student days. He is the founder of Hizb-ul Islam which is the most powerful faction within the Afghan jihad movement.

Hikmetyar speaks Farsi, Arabic and English. Some of his books have been translated into Turkish. One of them is published by Piran Books under the title 'Consciousness and Matter' examining and refuting the philosophy of materialism. Two more of his books have been translated into Turkish: 'Key to Koran', published by Gumus Books, offers an interpretation of the Fatiha. And in the other book Hikmetyar examines how the issue of fac-

tionalism is treated in Koranic texts. These publications show that he works as hard behind the lines as he does at the front.

In everything he does Hikmetyar reinforces the impression that he will be among the future leaders of the Muslim World. His blood carries traces of the scholars of Herat, of Imam-ul Tirmizi, of Kashgar and places of similar sanctity. The mujahedeen are proving themselves once again, like they did a century ago against the Russians and the British. God willing, the enemy will experience the same bitter fate at the hands of the mujahedeen...

Hikmetyar does not compromise with un-Islamic thinking. He tries to make sure that Muslims avoid the mistakes once made facing Genghis Khan. He always carries himself with pride and fortitude. In a speech he made in Istanbul (at a gathering jointly organised by the Islamic Conference and ESAM, at the OTIM building) Hikmetyar demanded the restoration of the caliphate, upon which the governor of Istanbul abruptly left the hall. Here is how Hikmetyar responded to our questions:

[Question] As you know there has been a Soviet-American summit recently during which Afghan question was high on the agenda. Do you believe something will come out of this meeting, and might things be changing in Afghanistan?

[Answer] What these summits do is merely confirm that the so-called superpowers, Russia and America, are acting together in the world arena. In discussing these issues at summits Soviets are giving the impression that they are not alone in Afghanistan. Or to put it more bluntly, they imply having the support of America. Instead of addressing the rightful party in the dispute -- that is, the people -- Soviets are conducting negotiations with those who are absolutely irrelevant to the issue at hand. Like the Geneva meeting between Pakistan and Afghanistan these are all matters of form and no substance. The mujahedeen demand nothing other than the Russians' unconditional withdrawal. So long as the Russians keep military forces in Afghanistan we won't engage in any dialogue with them. The mujahedeen will not accept anything short of that. If the discussions and/or negotiations are not addressed to the right people they are bound to be counter-productive instead of being helpful.

[Question] Before the summit Soviets announced their intention to withdraw a contingent of their soldiers, and lately they have been proclaiming this to the world. What do you say about all this?

[Answer] The announcement by the Russians will lighten the pressures of world public opinion upon them. The world will be led

to believe that the Russians want to withdraw from Afghanistan and that they don't want to stay here any longer. But there is nothing preventing them from doing so, so why aren't they doing it? Why the time schedule? Well, the problem seems to be between Russia and America. The mujahedeen are working towards liberation of their country. By such announcements and proclamations however, Russians are trying to introduce another dimension to the issue, trying to demonstrate they are not all that inflexible about their occupation of Afghanistan. They seem to think they are interested in peaceful negotiations. This is nothing but window dressing and low-rate propaganda.

The withdrawal of 15,000 troops means reduction of merely 3 percent of the Russian presence in Afghanistan. They are withdrawing their anti-tank units. Does the mujahedeen have any tanks to make these units useful to the Russians? They had brought the anti-tank units for no good reason and it turned out to be a burden. That is why they decided to withdraw them. Now they are trying to deceive the world public opinion. Since mujahedeen have no planes either, they are withdrawing their anti-aircraft weapons too. Russians view air raids as very important in their war against the mujahedeen, due to their effectiveness. Russians do not fight like true men and have no scruples about employing various chemical weapons.

For us to lay down our weapons is out of the question. Najib, general secretary of the Parcham Party and new leader of the Politburo, claims that the Russians number under 250,000. Western sources quote the figure at 115,000. When the Russians first came they were 25,000, now they are around 230,000. But despite all their weapons and numbers we will still win the war. It is not possible to keep Afghanistan under occupation indefinitely. We also gained a good deal of experience fighting. Eight years have brought us considerable experience. Our successes will increase as we continue our struggle, God willing. The Russians will be forced out of Afghanistan, and God willing, an independent Islamic country will be established over the whole of Afghanistan. And from that base we will be instrumental in helping all Muslims realize their ideals.

[Question] What do you think of Zahir Shah? Formerly, his name was frequently mentioned in the context of reaching a settlement.

[Answer] For some time now, the name Zahir Shah does not mean anything in Afghanistan. As far as Afghanistan is concerned there is no Zahir Shah. His role has ended long time ago. The possibility of his return is completely gone. After so many atrocities and the Russian occupation, Afghan people do not want to see Zahir Shah return. All our troubles, including the occu-

pation, are due more to Daoud and Zahir Shahs than to Babrak, Najib and company. When we attain our goal we will put Zahir Shah on trial. We are at the threshold of a new era. And God willing, it will be an era fully Islamic in all respects.

[Answer] Among Russian troops there are soldiers of Muslim extraction. What is their attitude vis-a-vis the Afghan jihad? We hear many of them have joined the ranks of jihad forces. How true are these reports?

[Question] Yes, some of them have joined the forces of jihad, many are still doing so. As you know, the Muslim and Russian troops had been told, before coming to Afghanistan, that they were going to fight the Americans. But they have since realized that it isn't so. Yes, Muslim soldiers who joined our ranks are participating in the jihad against the Russians with all their might. And Russian troops who are still fighting against us are weary of the war and want to return home. As 8 years of fighting yielded no results their morale has suffered and they turned to alcohol and drugs. At long last they realized the impossibility of occupying Afghanistan. Russian soldiers do not want to die at the hands of the mujahedeen, they want to keep body and soul together. Life is apparently sweet. Not being able to hold their own against the mujahedeen or scoring an easy victory they lost their morale and started fearing for their lives. As I pointed out, before being brought to Afghanistan under false pretences Russian soldiers thought they would find the Pakistanis, Chinese and Iranians. Once in Afghanistan they saw the naked truth.

[Question] The Soviet army, with the backing of the puppet regime in Kabul, attacked the headquarters of Jamaat-ul Islam in Herat. The leader of Jamaat-ul Islam, Professor Burhaneddin Rabbani, subsequently asked for help from the other mujahedeen groups. How is the situation in Herat now?

[Answer] There was severe fighting in Herat. Our own Hizb-ul Islam suffered a loss of 9 fighters and a commander as martyrs. We withstood the Russian onslaught all together. The attack took place about a month ago. Hizb-ul Islam had one of its regional headquarters in north of Herat. About 20 mujahedeen ascended to martyrdom during the fighting. We, too, killed dozens of Russian and Afghan soldiers, and took 22 Russians as prisoner. We destroyed a lot of equipment and captured many weapons. Now the city of Herat is completely under our control. Russian forces have been obliged to retreat. Russians subsequently brought their units to Kandahar. 25 mujahedeen were martyred in this second attack, with about 50 wounded. We destroyed 19 enemy tanks and downed 4 of their planes. Russians were obliged to retreat in this second attack as well. In this

assault, our group Hizb-ul Islam, under the command of Ali Khan Subhan, suffered a loss of 19 attaining the rank of martyrdom. Ali Khan Subhan is our regional commander in that area and is a true holy warrior. Though I have not received news from the front in the last 15 days I believe the situation is progressing in our favor.

[Question] It is said that you receive arms from America, and that President Reagan is helping you. The Jamaat-ul Islam leader Professor Rabbani's visit to America seems to confirm this. Even if America does not favor you regarding the representation of Afghanistan that is the overall perception. What do you say to that?

[Answer] We have always rejected such claims as obvious propaganda. We are not working for America like the 'contras' so why should America be helping us? Are we supposed to be serving some American interest? We don't want Afghanistan to become a second Vietnam. We are not engaged in our jihad just to trade off one hegemon for another. We don't want to sit on the lap of one imperialist having climbed off another's. We are against the notion of Afghanistan becoming an arena of confrontation between the Soviets and America, and we will take the necessary measures to ensure that our struggle is predicated upon martyrdom. The struggle will continue until we establish the Islamic state. That Russia does not want to see an Islamic government. It won't be pleased with such a prospect either. For us, Master Professor Burhaneddin Rabbani's visit to America can only be viewed as unsuccessful and unnecessary. It may be correct in a formalistic sense but strategically inappropriate. Because the whole world knows that the struggle is between the rightful owners and usurpers. The visit of the master has cast something of a shadow over that general understanding. We receive absolutely no help from America. If they really want to help let them keep out of our affairs.

[Question] How are your relations with Iran? Lately Iran appears to have been more active in its support for you. And what is the Shi'ite population to Afghanistan? Before he died Anwar Sadat used to claim that he was sending considerable quantities of arms to you. What is the truth of that? Are Saudis helping? What is the stance of Muslim countries generally?

[Answer] Unfortunately we cannot get the support we have expected from the world of Islam. There are even some Islamic countries -- like Syria, and Aden (South Yemen) -- which support the Russians instead of supporting the mujahedeen. Such countries support the Russians in international forums. The mujahedeen are working for freedom, independence, and establishment of their rights. In countries which accept Afghans as refugees the

refugee problem has not been resolved. These countries are not able to utter a single word in favor of the mujahedeen.

Let me digress for a moment. The world press also neglects the Afghan jihad. Not even one-tenth of what goes on in Afghanistan is being reported. News is always slanted toward the Western viewpoint and there is manipulation. For example, last month the mujahedeen downed 8 Russian planes during a single engagement. It hardly got any coverage at all. The resistance is stronger than ever. Certainly our jihad is much better positioned than before. This month alone the mujahedeen blew up two ammunition dumps in Kabul -- in Kabul no less. There are some who think the resistance has weakened. On the contrary, we are strong. The superpowers want to reach an agreement acceptable to both. But for us the main thing is a victory which would please God. We are in anticipation of such a victory.

As to Iran, close to 2 million Afghan refugees live there. Though they are not formally acclaimed as refugees by Iran I feel obliged to thank the Iranians none the less. It is true that they have not been forthcoming with concrete measures of support. There have been some recent press reports of Iranian support across the border into Afghanistan but I have not been able to confirm it as yet. In any case Iranian soldiers are needed at the Iraqi front. We have sufficient numbers of mujahedeen. What we need are weapons, equipment, machinery and so on. We can't even properly equip the mujahedeen we have. Thank God, we have mujahedeen in such numbers, we are all mujahedeen. We are quite happy with Iran's treatment of our refugees, we are thankful. This much help from Iran is sufficient for us. Iran is also providing diplomatic support in international forums. We thank them for that too. It is true we had closed some of our offices in Iran. There were many reasons for that. Iran was not showing sufficient interest and restricting some of our activities. But, all in all, I could say that Iranian officials have been supportive. There are some 2,5 million Shi'ites in Afghanistan. They take part in the Afghan jihad, in the struggle against the Russians.

We have not seen any Egyptian help so far. I am not not sure how Sadat might have helped us. I don't have any data or documentation to verify that, unfortunately. Regarding the Saudis, there is some truth in that. Saudi Arabia supports the Afghan jihad, and through various charity organizations helps our jihad. Rabita and other Islamic organizations are used by Saudi Arabia to provide tents, food, clothing and other necessities for the refugees. To that end Saudi Arabia has opened several offices in Pakistan.

[Question] There are factions in the Afghan struggle. You have been able to forge some unity last year but apparently it didn't work out, why?

[Answer] None of us want disunity, obviously. But our methods are different. We have to think of the future. In Tunisia, Algeria and in many other Islamic countries, struggles for independence were conducted under the banner of Islam but the results have been completely opposite. Nowadays Tunisia is the most liberalist and laic country in the Arab world. Therefore we have tried our best not to enter into any dialogue with the West. Our future is determined by steps we take today. We may not be able to walk away from the course taken now, or retrieve the concessions made. Some factions, including Jamaat-ul Islam, seem to believe that dialogue with the West would help in solving the problem. We do not subscribe to that view. Had the West been so inclined they would have been able to save Poland. We have repeatedly asserted that we do not favor any 'joint solutions'. We don't believe that interim arrangements would do any good either -- witness the sad fate of the Palestinians. The only power that could lead to success is the power granted us by God. Seeking other solutions would be following a mirage.

[Question] Finally, do you have any message for Muslims of Turkey?

[Answer] Of course I have. I want to relay a message to my Turkish brethren by telling them about the successes of our jihad. In Afghanistan we are killing every single day, on average, 30 Soviet and/or puppet regime soldiers. We are downing, on a yearly basis, 700 planes or helicopters. We are destroying hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles. What I am saying is this: God Almighty does not forego the rights of the righteous. I want to see Muslims of Turkey revitalized with the spirit of Islam and, in turn, to revitalize mankind. As Muslims, and Afghans in particular, we expect many things from the Turks, wishing to see them restored to their historical role as flag-bearers of Islam. Turks have never been foreign as far as we are concerned. On our soil many Turkish states were founded. Yes, I want to see Turks return to Islamic morality and lead the Muslim World. Turkish nation is a fighting nation, its history filled with great victories. It is said that everything reverts to its essence, to whence it came from. So, I believe that Turkey will soon recapture its essence. That is what I expect from Turkey. Anything other than that would go against Turkey's nature and conditions. Turkey cannot do without Islam, it cannot turn its back upon thousand years of history. The whole of the Muslim World is attached to Turkey with profound ties. Finally, I request my Turkish brothers to pray for the victory of the Afghan jihad. Peace be unto you, and God's mercy and His bounty be upon you...

ERSHAD MESSAGE REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH PLO

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Friday reiterated his country's solidarity with the Palestinian people and wholehearted support for an early implementation of 1982 Arab Peace Plan for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, reports BSS.

In a message on observance of International solidarity day with Palestinian people, the President said 'we reaffirm that an international conference on Middle East under the auspices of the UN and attended by all parties including the PLO, the sole legitimate and authentic representative of the Palestinian people, remains the only credible and feasible framework for resolving the conflict in West Asia and to achieve a meaningful comprehensive and permanent peace in the region'.

The President said: 'Today, as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is being observed all over the world under the auspices of the United Nations, the Government and the people of Bangladesh once again with the international community in reiterating full and unwavering support to our Palestinian brethren in their just struggle for independence and the realisation of their inalienable national right to establish a state of their own in their homeland under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, their sole and legitimate representative with Jerusalem as their capital.

'The question of Palestine remains the crux of the problem in West Asia. The people of Palestine continues to languish in despair. Israel's arrogant defiance of the will of the international community, the consolidation of its stronghold over the occupied territories and its measures to distort and erase the identity and cultural heritage of the Palestinian people, all constitute an affront to the conscience of humanity with perilous consequences for world peace and security.

On this International Day of Solidarity with the people of Palestine I take the opportunity therefore, to pledge once again our total solidarity with our Palestinian brethren and reiterate our wholehearted support for an early implementation of 1982 Arab Peace Plan which inter-alia calls for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including Al-Quds-Al Sharif and restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including the right to establish their own independent state in Palestine. We reaffirm that an international conference on Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by all parties including the PLO, the sole legitimate and authentic representative of the Palestine people, remains the only credible and feasible framework for resolving the conflict in West Asia and to achieve a meaningful comprehensive and permanent peace in the region'.

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CSO: 4600/1272

COMMONWEALTH OFFICIALS END CONFERENCE IN DHAKA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Senior Commonwealth officials ended their three-day meeting in Dhaka yesterday with a call for taking effective steps against drug trafficking and international terrorism.

"These two subjects would be high on the agenda of the Commonwealth summit, due to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in October, 1987", Mr Sridath Ramphal Secretary General of Commonwealth told a news conference yesterday.

He said that increasing importance was being attached to tackling the menace of international terrorism through legal and other cooperation between the member countries and other nations.

The Vancouver Summit would also consider proposals emerging from an international conference on the problems of drug trafficking and drug abuse, scheduled to be held in Vienna next June, he said.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the officials meeting, attended by about 100 delegates from 33 countries of the 49-member Commonwealth, Mr Ramphal described it highly successful.

He said that apartheid and

extension of hostilities by South Africa beyond its border also came up for discussions on a priority basis.

The need for extending assistance to frontline African states where conditions have deteriorated due to Pretoria's atrocities against its neighbours, Mr Ramphal added.

He said that mechanisms for applying sanctions against South Africa also received attention at the meeting.

In this connection, he said that it was agreed that Commonwealth countries should hold urgent consultations to organise sanctions by UN members through the Security Council.

On the question of Britain's refusal to participate in international sanctions against South Africa to force it abandon the policy of apartheid the Commonwealth Secretary General said that he does not believe that there had any change in London's policies. But he added that an evolutionary policy has been emerging in Britain, particularly among the private firms trading with South Africa. He cited the withdrawal of Barclays Bank operations in South Africa and similar steps by other British firms as an evolutionary process to apply sanction by Britain.

About the other issues discuss-

ed at the meeting, Mr Ramphal said that Commonwealth officials called for stepping up functional cooperation between member states in areas ranging from trade to exchange of TV programmes and recognising women's role in development.

He said that the meeting also highlighted the special need for assistance to smaller states for further development of the Commonwealth members and considered an Australian proposal for providing office facilities at New York for poorer Commonwealth members during the sessions of the UN General Assembly.

Mr Ramphal said that the meeting also elected Mr Robert Stanfield of Canada as the Chairman of Commonwealth Foundation that provides assistance to different Commonwealth bodies and scholarships.

Among others, Bangladesh, Britain, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Guyana had sought the post, Bangladesh candidate was its former Foreign Minister Professor M Shamsul Huq.

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CSO: 4600/1275

SOVIET ENVOY SAYS DHAKA-MOSCOW TIES IMPROVING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

The USSR Ambassador in Bangladesh Mr. V.G. Beliaev said in Dhaka on Wednesday that relations between Dhaka and Moscow had improved in recent years, and hoped that there had been "positive moves" from both sides to develop it further, reports BSS.

Describing the present state of cooperation in technical and economic fields as "good" the Ambassador said "Prospects for upgrading this cooperation is promising".

Addressing a Press conference at the USSR Embassy Club, Mr. Beliaev said the forthcoming visit of Mr. Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury to Soviet Union demonstrates that political relation between the two countries "improving". He hoped Bangladesh Foreign Minister's talk with his Soviet counterpart and other officials would have positive impact on bilateral relations and foster closer cooperation on many international issues like reduction of nuclear arms race and world peace.

The Ambassador said it has been found that the views of USSR and Bangladesh on many international problems and issues are either "same or very close". Humayun-Shevardnadze meeting will help forge further cooperation, not only on bilateral relation but also on regional and international issues of common interests, the envoy added.

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CSO, 4600/1278

JOINT ECONOMIC PANEL WITH INDIA ISSUES PRESS RELEASE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Standing Committee of Bangladesh-India Joint Economic Commission in its just concluded deliberations took note of the existing trade imbalance between the two countries and agreed to intensify efforts for achieving stable and balanced growth of trade, reports BSS.

The two-day meeting of the Joint Economic Commission which concluded in Dhaka on Tuesday explored new areas for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in different fields.

A Press release issued after the "successful conclusion of talks" and signing on, agreed minutes between the two sides Wednesday morning said both sides expressed interest for long term arrangement for certain commodities like newsprint and refractories. India has allowed duty concessions for facilitating export of specified quantity of Jamdane sarees and jute carpets from Bangladesh.

The agreed minutes were signed by the leader of the Indian delegation and Foreign Secretary Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran, and Mr. M.K. Anwar Secretary of the External Resources Division, on behalf of their respective sides.

The Press release said both sides agreed on the need for improving existing communication facilities. It was agreed that technical preparation for introduction of direct dialling facilities for telephone and telex would be completed soon and steps be taken for linking Dhaka with Delhi by air. The Standing Committee noted with satisfaction the developments in the

railway sector.

Bangladesh side proposed for a new credit line of Indian Rupee 500 millions for supporting development activities during the Third Five-Year Plan.

The Indian side agreed to examine the proposal. In addition, Indian side also agreed to examine Bangladesh's proposal for sharing Indian experience in domestic resource mobilisation, management of agricultural credit, credit operation in small industries and management of cooperatives.

Both sides agreed that the next meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology be held in Dhaka as soon as possible. The committee reviewed the progress of implementation of a number of projects and feasibility studies in the industries sector. Increased level of technical assistance is likely to be available for small industries.

The Indian side agreed to consider the proposal made by Bangladesh for equity participation in Karnafuli Fertilizer Company with an option to buy back part of production to be mutually agreed.

Indian investors welcomed

The Press release said, the Indian side was informed that for the purpose of investors forum to be held in Dhaka in January next certain projects have been identified in various fields and Bangladesh welcomed the Indian investors to participate in the forum and consider project proposals for investment in collaboration with Bangladeshi entrepreneurs.

It was agreed that some pro-

jects in private sector would be identified and proposed to the Indian Government for taking up with the interested Indian investors.

The Standing Committee reviewed the progress of implementation of the agreements reached during the second meeting of the Ministerial-level Joint Economic Commission held in Dhaka in August 1983. During the meeting separate working groups were set up for trade, transport and communication, industry, economic and financial matters and technical cooperation.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and reaffirmed the view that the strengthening of regional cooperation would make a major contribution to the economic development in the member countries of the SAARC.

After signing the agreed minutes the Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Venkateswaran said that there was a vast scope for increased economic and commercial cooperation between his country and Bangladesh.

He said the economies of Bangladesh and India had many complementarities which could help strengthen the existing and growing ties between the two countries.

The leader of Bangladesh delegation and ERD Secretary Mr. M.K. Anwar appreciated the "constructive and accommodative" attitude of the Indian side in the deliberations of the meeting. "We are looking forward to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries for mutual benefit" he said.

MEETING NOTES DEFICIT IN TRADE WITH MALAYSIA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The two-way cumulative trade between Bangladesh and Malaysia in seven years ending 1984-85 amounted to 261.84 million dollars, a paper on trade cooperation revealed in the city on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Authored by Dr. Shah M. Farid, Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce, the paper on 'Cooperation in trade between Bangladesh and Malaysia,' said that out of the total sum, Bangladesh's export was only 20.01 million dollars resulting in a deficit of 221.82 million dollars.

Presented at the final working session on the last day of the three-day colloquium on Bangladesh-Malaysia relations, Dr Farid in his paper opined that some policy changes

have become necessary for trade to grow as desired by the two parties. Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Malaysia was in the chair.

While mentioning that growth of trade between the two countries failed to match their close political relationship, Dr. Farid, however, mentioned that both countries have taken measures for trade liberalisation which was likely to have favourable impact on bilateral trade.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) and Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Kuala Lumpur, cosponso-

red the first colloquium of this nature.

The colloquium concluded Tuesday with the adoption of a report which inter-alia said BIISS and ISIS will jointly conduct a study for finding ways and means to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Dr Noordin Sopiee, Director General ISIS and Lt. Col Shah Salahuddin, Director BIISS were, among others, who participated in the discussion on Dr. Farid's paper.

Col. Salahuddin suggested greater cultural cooperation between the two countries, who share many common religious and other values. He said joint venture projects for the production of sports goods could also become mutually profitable for both.

Three other papers on economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries viewed from both sides and another on joint marketing and joint procurement arrangements between the two countries were presented in the morning session of the colloquium on Tuesday.

Discussants and participants on these papers stressed that private sectors through innovative measures help improve the overall situation, in which governments of both countries can play important catalytic role.

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CSO: 4600/1271

TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH BURMA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh and Burma have agreed to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and explore the possibilities for expanding further areas of cooperation in various fields, reports BSS.

A Joint Communique issued at the end of a four-day state visit to Bangladesh by President U San Yu said that the leaders of the two countries availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the visit to hold friendly and fruitful talks on bilateral, regional and international matters of common interest.

The communique said that the talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding.

Following is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of His Excellency, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency U San Yu, President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma accompanied by Madame San Yu paid a state visit to Bangladesh from 27-30 November, 1986.

His Excellency President U San Yu was accompanied by H.E. U Van Kulh, member of the Council of State and Mrs. Van Kula; H.E. U Mahn San Myat Shwe, member of the Council of State and Mrs. Mahn San Myat Shwe; H.E. Thura U Tun Tin, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Planning and Finance and Mrs. Tun Tin; H.E. U Ye Goung, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Ye Goung; H.E. U Min Gaung, Minister for Home and Religious Affairs and Mrs. Min Gaung, H.E. U Khin Maung Gyi, Minister for

Trade and Mrs. Khin Maung Gyi, H.E. General Saw Maung, Deputy Minister for Defence and Chief of Staff, Defence Services; H.E. U Htwe Han, Member of Pyithu Hlutlaw and Secretary of the Central Committee Headquarters, Burma Socialist Programme Party, Col Aung Myint Baw, Director-General, President's Office, U Aung Thant, Director-General, Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and U Ohn Gyaw, Director-General, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

President U San Yu and his entourage were received by His Excellency President and Begum Ershad and high dignitaries and officials and were accorded a very warm welcome reflecting the close bonds of friendship and ties between the two governments and the peoples.

During the state visit, H.E. Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control and Begum Mahmud were in attendance as Minister in Waiting and Lady-in-Waiting to H.E. President U San Yu and Madame San Yu respectively.

His Excellency President U San Yu placed a wreath at the Jatiyo Shaheed Smriti Shoudha (national memorial for martyrs) at Savar.

On behalf of the citizens of Dhaka the Administrator of Dhaka Municipal Corporation presented a key of the city to His Excellency U San Yu, President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and a civic reception was accorded to him.

The Prime Minister H.E. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury

paid a courtesy call on the President his Excellency U San Yu.

The President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma conveyed to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the government and the people of Bangladesh the goodwill and friendship of the government and the people of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. The President of Bangladesh reciprocated similar sentiments for the government and the people of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

The two presidents availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the visit to hold friendly and fruitful talks on bilateral, regional and international matters of common interest. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding.

During the talks, present on the Bangladesh side were H.E. Mr. Maudud Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Ministry of Industries, H.E. Major General (retd) Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury, Minister for Food, H.E. Major General (retd) Mahmudul Hassan, Minister for Home Affairs; H.E. Mr. M. Syeduzzaman, Advisor to the President in charge of the Ministry of Finance; Mr. Fakhr-uddin Ahmed, Foreign Secretary; Mr. A.H.F.K. Sadique, Secretary to the President, Mr. A.B.M. Ghulam Mostafa, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Major General Sadiqur Rahman, Principal Staff Officer to the Commander-in-Chief, Mr. M. Anisuzzaman, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ahmed Farid, Secretary, Ministry of Jute, Mr. Harun-ur-Rashid, Additional Foreign Secretary; Mr. Mustafizur Rahman,

Bangladesh Ambassador to Burma and other senior officials.

Present on the Burmese side were members of the Council of State H.E. U Van Kulh and H.E.U. Mahn San Myat Shwe; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and Finance H.E. Thura U Tun Tin; Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. U Ye Goung, Minister for Planning and Finance H.E. Thura U Tun Tin; Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. U Ye Goung Minister for Home and Religious Affairs H.E. U Min Gaung; Minister for Trade H.E. for Khin Maung Gyi Deputy Minister and Chief of Staff of Defence Services H.E. General Saw Maung; Member of Pyithu Hluttan and Secretary of the Central Committee Headquarters, Burma Socialist Programme Party H.E. U Htwe Han Director-General Col. Aung Myint Baw President's Office U Aung Thant and U Ohn Gyaw Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Burmese Ambassador to Bangladesh H. E. U Soe Myint.

The two presidents agreed to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and explore the possibilities for further expanding the areas of cooperation in various fields.

The Burmese Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Planning and Finance H.E. Thura U Tun Tin called on Advisor to the President of Bangladesh in charge of the Ministry of Finance, Mr M Syeduzzaman. The Burmese Minister for Home and Religious Affairs H.E. U Min Gaung called on the Home Minister of Bangladesh, Major General (retd) Mahmudul Hassan while the Burmese Minister for Trade H.E. U Khin Maung Gye called on the Bangladesh Minister for State in charge of the Ministry of Jute. Lt. Col

(retd) Zafar Imam. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

The two presidents took the opportunity of informing each other of the efforts that were being undertaken in their respective countries for the economic, social and cultural developments of their peoples.

In reviewing the current international situation the two leaders expressed concern at the escalation of international tension endangering peace and security in certain regions in particular and the world as a whole. They reaffirmed their two governments' firm commitment to the cause of peace and progress in the region in particular and the world at large. They affirmed the commitment of their governments to the United Nations Charter and underscored the need for all states to strictly observe the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and peaceful settlement of disputes.

President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma expressed his profound gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his party by the government and the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during his state visit.

President of Bangladesh expressed his deep satisfaction that the visit of the President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma would strengthen the existing bonds of friendship, understanding and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma extended an invitation to the president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to pay a visit to Burma at a time convenient to both sides. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

JAPANESE GRANT TO AID IN WHEAT PURCHASE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh will receive grant assistance worth two billion Japanese yen (equivalent to about Taka 38.03 crore) from Japan. Out of this quantum of assistance, an amount of 1.56 billion yen (approximately Taka 29.70 crore) will be utilised for purchasing wheat from the United States. The rest of the amount will be utilised for bearing the cost of transportation of the wheat from the USA to Bangladesh.

An exchange of notes was signed between Japan and Bangladesh in Dhaka on Monday in this connection. Mr Akhtar Ali, Joint Secretary, External Resources Division (ERD), and Mr

Yashide Hayashi Charge d'Affaires of Japan in Bangladesh, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

The Japanese assistance will be coming under Food Aid Convention of 1986 which follows the International Wheat Agreement, 1971 (popularly known as Kennedy Round Aid) for providing goods support to the developing countries.

Japan has meanwhile been providing grant assistance to Bangladesh since 1971-72 for procurement of rice from Burma, Thailand and Pakistan and that of wheat from the USA. Under this programme, Bangladesh has received about four lakh tons of rice from Japan till 1985.

Total grant assistance by Japan to Bangladesh since 1971 till to-date stands at 122.07 billion yen (about Taka 2324 crore). Besides Japan has made available to Bangladesh an amount of 291.505 billion yen (about Taka 5550.3 crore) as project and commodity loans during the period under report.

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CSO: 4600/1276

DHAKA SIGNS CULTURAL EXCHANGE PACT WITH GDR

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh and German Democratic Republic (GDR) signed here yesterday a cultural exchange programme for the period 1986-88 under the existing cultural agreement between the two countries, reports BSS.

The visiting GDR Deputy Minister for Culture Dr. Dietmar Keller and Education Secretary Kazi Azhar Ali signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the programme, the two sides will encourage and promote cooperation in the fields of science and education, arts and culture, public health, physical education and sports and learned bodies institutions through exchange of literature, information and education materials, records, services of slides, exhibition catalogues and books on visual arts, literature, music and museology, exchange visits of scientists, cultural troupes and delegations holding of exhibitions and

festivals on art, culture, film and books.

The GDR will offer two scholarships for graduate studies in the academic sessions 1986-87 and 1987-88 and one post graduate scholarship for every academic year for the Bangladeshi students and on the other hand, Bangladesh will offer one post graduate scholarship for every academic session for GDR student.

The GDR will help Bangladesh in establishing an archive providing expertise and training. The GDR will also receive patients from Bangladesh for treatment.

It is expected that this cooperation will further strengthen the existing bond of friendship and would promote further cooperation between the two governments and the peoples of the two countries.

The government of Bangladesh have concluded similar cultural agreements with 33 countries of Asia, Europe and Africa.

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CSO: 4600/1271

HOME MINISTRY HEAD REPORTS ON VISIT TO UK

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

JAMALPUR, Dec. 1:—The Eight-Down Mail Train coming from Dinajpur to Dhaka derailed at Begunbari Railway Station near Mymensingh town in the early hours of today.

While crossing the Begunbari Station, the engine and three compartments of the Eight Down train derailed. The immediate cause of derailment was attributed to some faults which developed in the railway track.

The derailment left at least 15 passengers injured while Dhaka-Rajshahi and Dinajpur bound express and Drutajan trains were delayed by seven hours.

It may be mentioned here that train service remained suspended here for eight hours when four bogies of Padma Express derailed at the platform at Jamalpur Railway Station yesterday.

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CSO: 4600/1274

CANADA TO AID RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, RAILROADS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh will receive a grant of Taka 226.80 crore equivalent to 135 million Canadian dollars for rural electrification and Rail-I programmes from Canada under two separate Memorandum of Understandings (MOV) signed between the two countries in Dhaka on Friday, reports BSS.

Of the total amount Taka 85.80 crore will be available for rural electrification programme and the rest Taka 211 crore for the Rail-II programme.

The Memorandum of Understandings were signed by the Finance Adviser Mr. M. Sveduzaman and the visiting President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Mrs Margaret Catley Carlson.

Canada has been providing assistance to various projects in

energy sector, however the present contribution is first of its kind to rural electrification programme. Canadian involvement in this particular programme will be in addition to other donors like US aid and Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

The major objective of the project is to intensify and expand the rural power distribution network within eight existing Pally Biddiyut Samities (PBS). The Canadian contribution will fund the construction of 2500 miles of power lines, establishment of 12 sub-stations and the provision of goods and services for approximately 78000 consumers connection.

The project when completed will improve the rural economy by providing electricity for household consumption, irrigation and small rural industries.

The objective of the Rail-II programme is to strengthen Bangladesh Railways through improvements in locomotive availability, reliability, productivity, traffic volumes and track improvement. The programme is a multifaceted one and comprises of activities on both mechanical and operational sides of Bangladesh Railways.

Canada's association in the rail transport sector in Bangladesh dates back to the post liberation period when Canadian assistance was provided to overcome heavy damages inflicted on the railway during the War of Liberation.

To-date Canada has contributed goods and services valued at over Canadian dollars 82 million to Bangladesh Railways.

REPORT ON ERSHAD'S SPEECH WELCOMING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 20 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President HM Ershad has said Bangladesh shared the Vatican concern for global peace and therefore she would support every step towards lessening of tension in the world.

In his address of welcome to Pope John Paul II on his arrival at the airport on a 24-hour visit, the President said, "We in Bangladesh are totally committed to promotion of peace in the world and our commitment to general and complete disarmament is unequivocal".

President Ershad said Bangladesh welcomed the Geneva summit between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union and believed that the recent summit meeting at Reykjavic offered a promise for the future. He hoped the dialogue between the two super powers should continue for achievement of peace.

"We all have a stake, for the survival of mankind depends on complete and universal disarmament. We are one with you that the relationship between disarmament and development needs pressing and compelling address and any new dynamism in that direction would receive total support of Bangladesh", he said.

The President said, "We are constantly trying to expand the horizon in search of peace. Convulsions in various parts of the world cause us concern. The

world today cannot be divided into regions of peace and conflict as it cannot be divided into pockets of prosperity and poverty."

He said inter-dependence of mankind was an inescapable reality and cooperation between the affluent and the less privileged was a necessity and that was why Bangladesh sought cooperation with all irrespective of different levels of development or forms of political institutions.

Turning to the areas of conflicts in different parts of the world, the President said that it would not be possible to bring peace and justice to the people of South Africa unless the abominable practice of apartheid there was totally obliterated. He also mentioned the struggle for independence by the Palestinian people and the situations in Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

He said peace and security are inseparably linked with the socio-economic development of the people. We have been endeavouring for more than four and a half years to provide a political and economic structure in Bangladesh that will be able to meet the needs and aspirations of our people.

In this connection he pointed out that the Government had successfully effected the final phase of transition to democratic system. Our democratic insti-

tutions rise from grass roots to national levels. The supreme objectives of those institutions are to provide a meaningful life to the people which we want to achieve through national consensus and not conflict, through stability and not discord through unity and not divisiveness. We pledge unfettered dedication and honesty towards people's welfare and democratic values" he added.

The President said in Bangladesh all citizens irrespective of his or her religious affiliation enjoyed equal rights and share similar responsibilities: rights of all citizens irrespective of religion race caste sex or place of birth are enshrined in our constitution he said adding, we are determined and committed to maintain our regio-cultural and traditional values. Describing the visit by the Pope to Bangladesh as a historic occasion, he said for the Catholic community of Bangladesh yesterday was a day of pilgrimage.

President Ershad also referred to the formation and the role of the SAARC in bringing about cooperation and understanding for the mutual benefit of one billion people in the region and said "our quest for peace in this region is no less than its maintenance beyond". At the same time we are making endeavour in all international fora for achieving peace and development, he added.

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CSO: 4600/1266

REPORT ON OBSERVER INTERVIEW WITH HOME MINISTER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Home Minister Major General (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan said that legal lacuna has often come in handy for criminals to evade punishment. He said crimes are being committed and the criminals are being protected by the political parties.

Talking to The Bangladesh Observer at his Secretariat chamber on Wednesday, the General said incidence of crime would scale down if the criminals are not protected by the political parties.

The Home Minister said he is under instruction of President Ershad to deal sternly with criminals irrespective of their party allegiance.

The Inspector General of Police, Mr. A. R. Khondaker, in a separate interview the same day called for effective coordination among the courts, laws, police, magistracy and members of the public for combating growing incidence of crime. He said law was not enough it needs execution to get desired results.

The Home Minister said that due to resource constraints the Government cannot recruit the required number of police. The existing strength of police in the country is about 60,000 against the minimum requirement of at least 1.20 lakh, he said. It is indeed a difficult task to tackle the situation in the metropolis having a population of nearly 40 lakh with about 5000 metro politan police, he said.

The police were recently busy in maintenance of law and order situation created by political parties during the process of democratisation of administration, he said. But they would be now available to give more attention to improve the crime situation, he said.

The Home Minister is hopeful of curbing the increasing incidence of money extortion, bomb

explosion and eve-teasing through united efforts of the police and the members of public. Seeking full cooperation of the people with the police, he said "without information of sources of criminals by the members of public the police alone cannot give the desired results".

The Home Minister said that the Government did not hesitate even to conduct combing operation in Dhaka University area to curb incidence of bomb explosions. Expressing concern over growing incidence of bomb explosions, he said that the easy availability of manufacturing materials in the markets and patronisation by a section of intelligentsia the menace has been increasing. The police, however, are not sitting idle and unearthing the sources, he said, said "once they have confessed further comment is not necessary". Elaborating a number of factors responsible for growing crimes in the country General Hasan said that the general tendency of people is not to abide by law. Poverty, unemployment, absence of parental care and affection for a total of about three to four crore children and inadequate number of police are some of the factors which can be attributed to increase incidence of crimes, he felt.

The children who grow without care sometimes work as hunched hoodlums of political parties while the female children find their place either on the city streets or in brothels, he noted. Corruption which has become all pervasive is another major factor contributing to increase of crimes in the country, he said.

The Home Minister said that if incidence of money extortion is brought to the notice of the members of law-enforcing agencies stern action would be

taken against those involved. Citing some examples in curbing the crime in New Market area, he said that provided there is people's cooperation it can be controlled. The victims of extortion often do not cooperate in detecting the criminals, he regretted. Asked if the informers would get due protection, he said, "of course".

He said that about 45,000 criminal cases were recorded in 1986 till October as against about 48,000 during the corresponding period of 1985. He said that he has been successful in stopping illegal VCR shows in the city. Similar stern measures would be taken to curb manufacture and use of bombs, money extortion and eve teasing.

Asked to comment about the allegation that hoodlums were getting the protection of the government party, he said throwing a challenge that if any body could prove any such instance, he would take stern steps to punish such elements.

Mr. A. R. Khondaker said that though incidence of crime was yet to be curbed satisfactorily, the law and order situation was satisfactory. Demonstrations by students, agitation by political parties and soccer violence contribute to the deteriorating law and order situation, he added.

He said that the police should be better equipped having logistic support like transports to effectively curb crimes.

Experts in criminology suggested proper motivation of those boys involved in manufacturing and free use of explosives and money extortion. It needs resistance from the members of the public, they feel. The society must deny so that those involved in such activities are under pressure, they suggest. The teachers, guardians and leaders of the society should come forward to dissuade the misguided boys to grow as useful citizens, they said. The growing addiction to drugs and narcotics by young boys has to be effectively checked and controlled to restore normalcy in social life, they observed. The slackening of social control and general apathy of guardians is a factor which can be held responsible for increasing incidence of social vices, they said. The influence of foreign ideas and erosion of moral values are also responsible for the growing crimes, they said.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1270

ECONOMIC COUNCIL REVIEWS PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

A meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) held at the Old Sangsad Bhaban on Saturday evening reviewed the progress of implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) in agriculture sector for the fiscal year 1985-86, reports BSS.

The meeting chaired by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad also discussed the problems of materialisation of ADP projects earmarked for agriculture sector for the current financial year.

The President directed the Ministry of Agriculture to gear up the implementation of projects under the Ministry. He also asked the Ministry to devise effective mechanism to regularly monitor the progress of implementation of projects in the field.

During the meeting it was informed that the revised ADP allocation for agriculture sector for the year 1985-86 was Tk. 200 crore and 50 lakh and the number of projects were 101.

However, the total expenditure for development projects in this sector for the 1985-86 fiscal year was Tk 210 crore and 19 lakh

Out of this amount Tk 207 crore and 66 lakh was spent for 82 development projects and the remaining Tk 2 crore and 53 lakh was spent for 19 technical assistance projects.

After overall review of the progress of implementation of projects it was found that the progress achieved so far is the 66 per cent of the target fixed for the year. The meeting identified the main problems on the way of materialisation of projects and directed the concerned ministries and other organisations to take necessary steps to remove these problems.

In the ADP of the current financial year, Tk 270 crore and 17 lakh has been allocated for 90 projects under agriculture sector. The meeting directed concerned ministry and other agencies to take active initiatives and effective steps for achieving the target of implementation of projects.

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CSO: 4600/1267

OFFICIAL REPORTS SHOW FOOD OUTLOOK PROMISING

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 5 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hossain Khasru]

[Text]

In the weather-prone agrarian economy of the country, production performance during the principle aman season this year has been quite a favorable one. Despite setbacks caused by unfavorable nature in some parts, overall production, according to available official reports, will be higher than what was earlier projected.

Aman rice yield in 1986-87, from about 11.3 million acres of land under cultivation, will be around 8.8 million tons. The yield will as such exceed the projected level of 8.5 million tons.

The production performance in the economy's main foodcrop sector has brightened the prospects for satisfactory economic growth. Jute and sugarcane productions have also been up to the mark, though the prices at the grower's level remained depressed and, certainly, were not matching the higher costs of operations for the related commercial crops.

Meanwhile, the rice price has of late shown a downtrend on the open markets. But the prices as of now remain quite high when compared to the relative price levels around this time last year. Unofficial statistics would suggest that rice price

is at least ten percent on the higher side than what was the situation last year.

Notwithstanding harvesting of a bumper aman crop as reported from the main rice-growing areas, except some parts in the northern belt, the prices of rice registered a marked uptrend. The intervention by the government in the market through additional release of foodgrains from its stocks came late this year.

Had there been a higher quantum of release under the public distribution system, the price situation, as many people tend to think, would have been somewhat different from what it is today.

The government has now stepped up its internal foodgrain operations to build up enough stocks for the coming months. The target for internal procurement has been set at five lakh tons for 1986-87 out of which two lakh tons are to be procured during the current aman drive.

No procurement was made this year during the aus season due to high moisture content and short shelf-life of aus rice.

The procurement prices in 1986-87 have been raised to keep pace with the

market price and the high cost of production. But doubts still persist whether the target for internal procurement can be attained this year in view of the higher prices of rice now ruling in the market.

Last year, too, the actual procurement at 3.49 lakh tons was short of the target of five lakh tons on similar grounds.

While aman harvesting is yet to be over, elaborate arrangements for raising boro crop have meanwhile been taken up. The agri-inputs delivery and logistics support operations assume greater importance for boro cultivation.

The rabi crop production program as drawn up by the concerned authorities of the government focuses on higher levels of output both for boro and wheat. Boro rice production target has been set at 4.2 million tons from a projected area of 4.25 million acres in 1986-87.

Wheat output has been programmed for the year at the level of two million tons, the highest so far for the country. In terms of area, two million acres of land are expected to come under wheat cultivation in 1986-87.

GOVERNMENT REVIEWS CHITTAGONG DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

A high-level meeting held yesterday at Bangabhaban reviewed the latest situation and progress of works in the implementation of development programmes in Chittagong Hill Tracts area, reports BSS.

Speaking briefly at the meeting, President Ershad said his government has laid special emphasis on the development of Chittagong Hill Tracts area to infuse speed to the uplift of the region.

In this context, he lauded the services being rendered by government machinery including the armed forces and civil administration in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area including implementation of development programmes there.

President Ershad observed that enhanced economic activities in the area with the implementation of ambitious development programme have contributed immensely in uplifting the economic life of the inhabitants there.

Earlier, the Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. M. Atiqur Rahman gave a brief resume of the present state of economic and other activities in the Hill Tracts area.

The Chittagong area commander of Bangladesh Army Major General M. A. Samad briefed the meeting about the latest situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts region and activities of the insurgents there. He referred to the gruesome killing of 24 innocent people recently by the insurgents. He, however, said many of misguided elements are coming back to normal life.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury,

Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, Ministers, Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and high civil and military officers.

The meeting was informed that an ambitious and extensive development programmes of Taka 170.53 crore has been implemented in Chittagong Hill Tracts area till 1986 to accelerate socio-economic uplift of the region.

Besides, the present government has undertaken a special five-year plan of Taka 263.18 crore for the area which manifest a unique feature in this country on regional development.

The development programmes implemented so far involved vital socio-economic sectors like road communications, electrification, telecommunication, water supply, afforestation and jhumia rehabilitation, rubber plantation, health care, education, cottage industries, agriculture extension and horticulture, cotton cultivation, livestock and fisheries development, tourism development and family planning.

The development programmes are being implemented under the aegis of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board headed by the area commander of Chittagong area.

Projects already implemented and under process of completion have already made positive contributions towards accelerating economic activities and growth in the area as well as helped improve the quality of life of the inhabitants in the hill region.

In road communication sector, roads having length of 212.50 miles passing through uneven hilly terrain have been constructed during the period. Work on

nine other roads having length of 143.50 miles is in progress.

Of the roads which are already completed, 158 miles are metalled.

As a result, 20 upazilas of the area are now connected by road with their respective district headquarters.

In electrification sector, 13 upazilas of the region have been connected with national grid and five more will be connected shortly.

Meanwhile, work on sophisticated telephone dialling system are progressing fast to link all the upazilas and important commercial places. The system will be operated by June next year.

Under a Taka 16 crore water supply project, works on urban water supply in Rangamati town have been completed and that of Khagrachari and Bandarban are nearing completion.

Besides, provisions have been created for adequate water supply in rural areas by sinking or repairing of tubewells and improve sanitary system.

Under health project sector, a 100-bed modern hospital at Rangamati has been completed and started functioning catering to the needs of the local people. The planned 50-bed hospital at Khagrachari is nearing completion.

With the implementation of massive programmes in education sector, Chittagong Hill Tracts area now have eight including three government colleges, 62 high schools, 37 junior high schools, 938 primary schools having literacy rate at over 20 per cent. The rate of literacy among the tribals is at around 25 to 30 per cent.

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CSO: 4600/1268

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULES FOR 1985-90 APPROVED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Investment Board in its special meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr. Mesbauddin Ahmed, Minister for State, Ministry of Industries approved the Industrial Investment Schedules for 1985-90 for large and medium, small and cottage industries, says an official source.

The Investment Schedules for large and medium industries included 11 major Sectors of Industries covering as many as 95 sub-sectors.

BSCIC schedule for small industries includes 11 major groups covering 49 sub-sectors and the schedules for cottage industries includes 9 major groups which covering 82 sub-sectors. The important features of the Industrial Investment Schedules are as follows:

The schedules are indicative, which will guide the private investors, but will not be the regulatory instrument; no capital outlay has been provided in the schedules, most of the industries have been concentrated in the developed area, dispersal of industries away from the developed area to the less and least developed areas where necessary, has been mentioned in the schedules for guidance, of the financial institutions; progressive manufacture, wherever necessary, has been mentioned in the schedules and anti-environment (pollution measures, wherever necessary, have also been mentioned).

Common sectors which have been included in both the schedules of Department of Industries and BSCIC, investment involving upto Taka 15 million each will be sanctioned or registered under the BSCIC schedule, while those exceeding that limit will be sanctioned or registered by the Department of Industries.

The Government have simplified the sanctioning procedures. No formal permission of the Government will be required for setting up of industries with own finance outside the reserved list and the discouraged list, provided the entrepreneurs

import machinery under SEM, supplier's credit (subject to clearance by the Hard Term Loans Committee), PAYE scheme and non-repatriable foreign exchange

The entrepreneurs after import of machinery or after opening of L/C for machinery or after procurement of machinery from local sources shall apply in prescribed form to the Department of Industries or to the Department of Textiles or to the BSCIC, as the case may be for registration.

The entrepreneurs desirous on setting up of industries with foreign currency and local currency loan will submit their applications to the Development Financing Institutions and Commercial Banks. The financial institution will sanction the project within their delegated authority.

The project which involve investment exceeding their prescribed limit but not exceeding Taka 300 million and the project requiring import raw materials more than 50% of the total requirement will be referred to the Investment Board for approval. All joint venture projects and the projects involving investment of Taka 300 million each or above will require the approval of the Standing Committee of NCID. 11 sub-sectors of industries namely, Automatic Rice Mills Cigarettes Cold Storage Distillery Edible Oil, Refining and Hydrogenation, Jute Yarn

and Twine, Sugar Mill, Jute Carpet, Wooden Tea Chest, Tannery (for wet blue) Safety Matches will be discouraged for sanction or registration due to over saturation or under utilization of the existing capacity. However, the industries in the Discouraged list may be considered for sanction by the government for less and least developed areas after localisation demand or specific localization of advantages are established.

The Small and Cottage Industries (SCI) sector has been given appropriate place in the investment schedules as a "priority sector" in order to project adequate resource mobilisation. Keeping in view its priority, provision has been made for opening

separate window in the financial institution and commercial banks for financing small and cottage industries income tax rebate concessioury rate of interest oct. In addition a bank specially for the small and cottage industries will soon be established in the private sector.

Sanction of the industries in the discouraged list which will be reviewed from time to time will require the approval of the Investment Board. The investment sanction procedure have been greatly simplified to encourage the prospective and existing entrepreneurs. Incentive have been made for more attraction than over before. Concerned agencies will create infrastructural facilities in the less and least developed areas. The Government believes that the entrepreneurs will play a positive role for industrialization of the country thereby achieving the objective of the Industrial Policy-1986 during the plan period.

TEA GROWERS GROUP REPORTS FALLING OUTPUT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

CHITTAGONG, Dec. 14:—Bangladesh produced 30.7 million Kgs of tea from January to October this year compared to 37.5 million Kgs produced during the same period of last year—a production fall by 6.8 million Kgs.

Tea Growers Association sources told BSS that unfavourable weather was mainly responsible for the fall in the crop production.

Tea market sources said that 20.32 million Kgs of tea were sold in 28 auctions held here from May to December 9.

Of the total orthodox and CTC/LTP grades accounted for over 20 million Kgs fetching an average price of Taka 30.21 per Kg while 249,341 Kgs of green tea fetched an average price of Taka 58.74 per Kg.

From May to September 12.95 million Kgs of tea were sold at the Chittagong auction of which the buyers for the export markets lifted 7.78 million Kgs while the buyers for the internal mar-

ket bought 5.17 million Kgs.

In October and November last the marketing condition remained rather difficult with the buyers for both the export as well as the internal markets remaining "rather inactive", the Traders Association of Bangladesh (TAB) sources said.

Tea prices also dropped for most of the grades at the sales during the two months.

But in the second half of October, the sources said, "a little more" enquiry was forthcoming from a number of foreign countries and the buyers for the internal consumers also became active.

Weather condition was described by Tea Traders Association as "unfavourable" for the crop during the entire month of October with heavy rainfall affecting the leaf intake and as a result crop production was 4.8 million Kgs compared 6.1 million Kgs of the same month last year.

In London auction, the Traders Association sources said, there was strong demand throughout October for medium and low medium grades.

And Bangladesh tea sold well generally fetching between 125 to 135 per Kg, they added.

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CSO: 4600/1282

COMMERCIAL FLOW FROM OIL WELL IN HARIPUR

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

HARIPUR (Sylhet), Dec. 24:— Bangladesh has struck oil at Haripur in Sylhet district, reports BSS.

The commercial flow of natural crude oil has been established from yesterday at the Seventh Well drilled at the Haripur Gas Field. The first-day production at the test drilling site without giving any pressure was 600 barrels a day.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad getting the information of hitting of oil this afternoon flew from Chittagong to the drilling site to see it for himself. The Energy Minister Anwar Hossain the Health Minister Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, the Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud and the PSO to the C-in-C Major General Sadequr Rahman Chowdhury accompanied the President.

The drilling of the Seventh Well at Haripur designed to explore gas, started on September 12 this year. At first the fine quality gas at three horizons was found at 1382 to 1375 metres 1335 metres to 1296 metres and 1262 to 1197 metres.

But the soil samples gave an indication of the bright prospect of oil at the site and the geologists of Petro-Bangla decided to further go down with the drilling.

The actual perforation of oil layer was made on December 22 as the drilling went to 2,033 to 2,020 metres after a repeat formation test and the crude oil started flowing up without any pressure at the rate of 600 barrels a day.

The oil hit at the test drilling is dry crude having a gravity of point 88 and American Petroleum Institute standard gravity of 29.5.

According to geological information there are oil layers at

three other horizons at 2,013 to 2,010 metres 1974 to 1971 metres and 1984 to 1981 metres.

Geologists ascertained that the Sylhet structure where oil has been struck will now be delineated by an advanced seismic study and basing on the results the best location will be determined for future drilling to establish the extent of oil pay zone at the site. The most preliminary observation said that at the present state of exploration report there is an expected reserve of 40 million standard barrels of oil at the site. But the actual crude oil deposit there has been estimated to be quite bigger.

According to the geologists, now pressure volume temperature of the crude and the well will be tested to determine the actual flow at the drilling.

The geologists said that the Bengal delta, which comprises Bangladesh bears the similar qualities and characteristics like those of Burma, Niger and Mississippi delta and so the prospect of oil was visualised long ago. But the real hit of oil could be made after 70 years at the Seventh Well at Haripur.

The drilling of well for natural gas and oil started in this area in 1910. In 1951, at a well at Bianibazar in Sylhet oil was brought out by 'swabbing' method. The content of water in that oil was too disproportionate at one barrel of oil to 25 barrel of water. So the well was abandoned.

The drilling at Haripur was started in 1955 and the first drilled oil was blown up. Later in 1957, gas was struck at the Well Number Three and later in Well Number Six.

President Ershad, who went to see oil strike at the drilling

site was shown the flowing out of crude oil at the field. He was also shown the seismic study report.

The President congratulated the Bangladesh geologists for the excellent work they have done.

Later, addressing a spontaneous gathering at a nearby area the President said blessing of Allah to our nation manifested through the striking of oil, has once again proved that faith in the almighty is imperative for every Muslim. We are poor and we have resource constraints, but our strength is unflinching faith in Allah he said.

President Ershad asserted that only unwavering faith in the Almighty and the united efforts of the people can lead us to progress and prosperity.

He described Sylhet as the land of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) is blessed by Allah.

Referring to discovery of oil, he said the resource bestowed by Allah the Merciful has to be made best use of it for the welfare of the people.

The President referred to the present socio-economic condition in the country and said peace and discipline have been established and it has to be sustained for progressive march ahead.

Earlier, on his arrival at Haripur the President was received by State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury.

Returning from Haripur to Sylhet President Ershad went straight to the Dargah Sharif of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA) and offered feteiha at the marar of the great Muslim saint.

He was accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad.

PAPERS DETAIL, COMMENT ON CABINET RESHUFFLE

Ministers, Reallocated Portfolios

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad last night appointed Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam as the Vice President, reports BSS.

He also appointed six new ministers, four state ministers and six deputy ministers.

The President administered the oath of office of the Vice President and newly appointed ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers at a simple ceremony held at Bangabhaban.

The function was attended among others by Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman, ministers services chiefs and high civil and military officers.

The newly appointed ministers are: Finance Adviser M. Syeduzzaman, Planning Adviser Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) A.K. Khandoker, Adviser Mahbubur Rahman, Zafar Imam, former Commerce Secretary M. Motiur Rahman MP, and Abdur Rashid Engineer MP.

Air Vice Marshal A. K. Khondoker who is away from the country will take his oath later.

Five ministers—Major General (ret'd) Mahabbat Jan Chowdhury Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) K.M. Aminul Islam, Hashimuddin Ahmed, Mominuddin Ahmed and M.A. Sattar have earlier resigned from the cabinet and the President accepted their resignations.

Zafar Imam who was State Minister for Jute has been elevated to full minister.

Among the state ministers the new inclusions are Sardar

Amjad Hossain, Mostafa Jamal Hyder, Prof. Abdus Salam and Major (ret'd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury.

Five young new faces from among parliament members who have got their berth as deputy minister include Wajid Ali Khan Panni, Lt.Col. (ret'd) H.M.A. Gaffar, Golam Sarwar Milan, Mahmudur Rahman Chowdhury and Nurul Amin Khan Patan.

Mrs Momota Wahab who was a deputy minister had resigned.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and the three deputy prime ministers—Moudud Ahmed, Prof. M.A. Matin and Kazi Zafar Ahmed are holding their positions in the cabinet. Moudud Ahmed has retained his old portfolio while Prof. Matin and Kazi Zafar Ahmed have been given new portfolios.

PORTFOLIOS REALLOCATED

The newly appointed Vice President Justice AKM Nurul Islam has been allocated the portfolio of the Ministry of Law and Justice which he was holding as minister till his new assignment.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury retained his old portfolio of Post and Telecommunications.

Following are the allocations of ministries to the ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers.

Deputy Prime Ministers: Moudud Ahmed-Industry; Prof

M.A. Matin; Home and Kazi Zafar Ahmed-Port; Shipping and IWT.

Ministers: Major General (ret'd) Mr. Shamsul Huq Relief and Rehabilitation; Major General (ret'd) M. A. Munem-Commerce; Shah Moazzem Hossain—L. G. R. D. and Cooperatives; Anisul Islam Mahmud-Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control; Sirajul Hossain Khan-Fisheries and Livestock, Begum Rabeya Bhuiyan Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Anwar Hossain Energy and Mineral Resources; Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury Foreign Affairs; Salauddin Kader Chowdhury Health and Family Planning; A.K.M. Mayeedul Islam Land Reforms and Land Administration, Mirza Ruhul Amin-Agriculture, Moulana M.A. Mannan-Religious Affairs; Sawfiqul Ghani-Works; Sunil Kumar Gupta-Textile; Anwar Zahid-information; M. Sayeeduzzaman Finance, Air Vice (ret'd) A.K. Khondoker—Planning, Mahbubur Rahman-Education, Zafar Imam—Jute; M. Motiur Rahman—Communications and Abdur Rashid Engineer—Labour and Manpower.

Major General (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan has not been assigned to any portfolio.

The portfolios of the State Ministers are: Sheikh Shahidul Islam Youth and Sports; A Satter Civil Aviation and Tourism Sardar Amzad Hossain—Food Meshahauddin Ahmed—Industry Binoy Kumar

Dewan-LGRD and Cooperatives, Mostafa Zamal Hyder—Labour and Manpowers Prof A. Salam—Agriculture and Major (ret'd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury—Energy and Mineral Resources.

The portfolios of the Deputy Ministers are: Ziauddin Ahmed—Port, Shipping and IWT, A.F.M. Fakrul Islam Munshi—Finance, Waheed Ali Khan Panni—Foreign Affairs; Lt.Col (ret'd) H.M.A. Gaffar Bir Uttam—Commerce; Golam Sarwar Milan—Education; Mahmudur Rahman Chowdhury—Communications and Nurul Amin Khan—Pharmaceuticals

and Family Planning.

Meanwhile, a notification said advisers to the President Zakir Khan Chowdhury and Mahbubuzzaman will continue as advisers with the rank and status of a minister.

Mr. Zakir Khan Chowdhury will continue as Adviser to the President on Freedom Fighters Affairs.

CABINET MEET

Meanwhile, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad last night met the Council of Ministers at an informal meeting at Bangabhaban.

Correspondent's Comment

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Dec 86 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The much talked about reshuffle in the Cabinet was made to look simple and innocuous by President Ershad on late Sunday evening. Seven Ministers were axed. They ducked the humiliation of being dropped from the cabinet by resigning.

The significant addition is the appointment of Justice Nurul Islam as Vice-President. He will hold the portfolio of Law and Justice.

Major General (Ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan, once known to be a powerful member of the Cabinet, had his wings clipped. He is a Minister but without a Ministry. His decline started when he was stripped of the responsibility of the Administrator of the Dhaka Municipality. He once combined in himself three very important public offices Engineer-in-Chief in Army Minister and Administrator of Dhaka Municipal Corporation.

Surprise inclusion was Sardar Amjad Hussain. It was as surprising as his appearance in the Jatiya Sangsad on November 10 for abetting the Indemnity Bill. Both the courses were kept a well-guarded secret. He has been handsomely rewarded. He has been made a State Minister but has been given the independent charge of the vital Food Ministry

Mr. M. Syeduzzaman who was so long an Adviser in charge of Ministry of Finance has been made a Minister and retained in the same Ministry. There was political compulsion for this. The Finance Minister sitting outside the parliament is a situation not easily comprehensible.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Zafar Imam has been made a full Cabinet Minister. He was ignored during the last reshuffle of the Ministry and wilfully abstained from the swearing-in ceremony. He was consoled and assured of a promotion at a future date. The promise has been fulfilled.

The Deputy Prime Minister Dr. M.A. Matin, an ophthalmologist by profession, has been shifted to the important Ministry of Home. He thus maintains the grip of English alphabet 'M' on home affairs. All Home Ministers since Bangladesh had their names beginning with 'M' namely Malek, Ukil, Mannan, Mustafizur Rahman, Dr. Matin, Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury, Manan Siddiky, Mahmudul Hasan and Dr. Matin again.

Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed during whose tenure as Commerce Minister a number of scandals were unearthed has been shifted to the less important Ministry of Ports Shipping and IWT.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman whose re-entry into Government as an Adviser to the President had created quite a stir has been put in charge of Ministry of Education. He is expected to play a supportive role in handling politics on campuses. A bill on such line is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during the coming session.

Mr. Matiur Rahman and Mr. Abdur Rashid Engineer are the two new entrants to the Cabinet. Others who have made full Ministers were serving in other capacities with the rank and status of Cabinet Ministers except Zafar Imam.

Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu who once acted as President Ershad's Students Affairs adviser and was maintaining liaison with the students as Deputy Minister of Education has been shifted to Port and IWT Ministry and his position in the Ministry of Education has gone to another student leader Golam Sarwar Milan.

Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance so long handled by the Ministers themselves will have State Ministers. Mr. Fakhrul Islam Munshi has been attached to Ministry of Finance and new entrant Waheed Ali Khan Panni will act as Mr. Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury's Deputy.

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CSO: 4600/1274

REPORT ON MEETING OF BNP STANDING COMMITTEE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at a meeting of its Standing Committee on Monday said that an uneasy atmosphere was now prevailing in the country and expressed its grave concern over it.

The meeting chaired by BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia said the present autocratic rulers began oppression on the leaders and workers of different political parties engaged in democratic movement in a bid to cover their 'failures' over the last four and a half years.

BNP alleged that the people were being categorized as pro- and anti-independence forces even after 15 years of liberation war and said this kind of move would divide the nation and push the country toward a civil war. BNP called upon all concerned quarters to refrain from making any provocative statement.

The party warned that the Government would have to bear all responsibilities for any grave consequences, if arisen, due to the "irrelevant statements". BNP also criticised the government restrictions on holding of public meetings at Baitul Mukarram square and the "move" to ban students

politics in the country.

BNP Secretary General A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman addressing a freshers' reception at Manikganj Government Debendra College yesterday also condemned what he termed the "attempt" to restrict political meeting at the government colleges and said the government had begun these anti-people activities being afraid of 'its failure, corruption and misdeeds.'

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CSO, 4600/1277

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER

Speech to Awami Jubo League

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Dec 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Sheikh Hasina, President of Bangladesh Awami League and Leader of the opposition on Saturday called upon all the pro-liberation and democratic forces of the country to forge a strong unity and launch movement to establish the people's rights.

Addressing the inaugural session of the third congress of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League (AJL) at the Institute of Engineers the Awami League chief said that rights enjoyed by the people during the three and half years of Awami League rule were snatched away by the two consecutive Martial Law regimes. Peoples rights were now confined in the army cantonments, she said.

The inaugural session of the congress was presided over by Mr Amir Hossain Amu, Chairman of the presidium of the Bangladesh Awami Jubo League. It was addressed by Mr. Mostafa Mohsin Montu MP, Syed Rezaul Rahman and Mohammed Nasim MP and General Secretary of AJL.

Sheikh Hasina said that the conspiracy against the sovereignty began from August 15 1975 the day Bangabandhu along with the members of his family were killed by a group of imperialist agents. The objective of the killing of Bangabandhu was to destroy his ideals and cripple the nation.

She said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fought against the martial rule for long 23 years to establish the people's rights.

Sheikh Hasina blamed the post 1975 government of giving protection to the killers of Sheikh Mujib by giving the jobs in

the Bangladesh Missions abroad. She simultaneously blamed President Ershad for rehabilitating those killers in Bangladesh politics.

Referring to the present regime Sheikh Hasina said that the political parties born from the pocket of the particular brand of people never believed in democracy. In this connection she said that though Martial Law was withdrawn the martialmen were in the power. These elements also did not believe in ballots and as such they got themselves elected without people's vote. She said that if there was a real election the 15-party Alliance would have swept it.

She said that the present government had shifted the huge burden of foreign debts on the shoulder of the commonmen and peasants of the country. This foreign debt without benefiting the people was rather inflating foreign bank accounts of few fortunate people in the country.

She blamed the present government for nurturing the anti-liberation forces in the country. She warned against distorting the history of the creation of Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that the government did not want opposition parties in the country. The government want the opposition to compromise with it. She alleged that the government was harassing the opposition parties in the many ways. She also blamed President Ershad for his propaganda to undermine the image of the political parties and the politicians.

Referring to the move to ban student politics Sheikh Hasina said that students of the country were always a conscious section of the society and they voiced their protest against any injustice. This is basic right of the students and none could take away their rights. She alleged that some Ministers were trying to bribe the students community.

Referring to the 7th Amendment to the Constitution Sheikh Hasina said that by passing the 7th Amendment this government had taken away the rights of the people.

She called upon the members of the Awami Jubo League to work for implementing the ideals of Bangabandhu's dream of establishing an exploitation free society.

Meeting With Gandhi

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina paid a courtesy call on the Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during her visit to New Delhi last week.

According to an Awami League press release issued yesterday, the Awami League chief had detailed discussions with him regarding arrangements for the return of Kader Siddiky and others who took asylum in India after the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975.

Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh was present during Hasina-Gandhi meeting the press release said.

Sheikh Hasina briefed the available members of her party's Working Committee on her discussions with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The press release said that Sheikh Hasina, who had gone to Delhi to bring her children

studying at a school in Nainital, a hill resort of Uttar Pradesh called on the Indian Premier at his Parliament chamber. She met him in her capacity as the Leader of Opposition of Bangladesh Parliament, the press release said.

The press release added that the Awami League working committee meeting yesterday demanded of the government to ensure the return of Kader Siddiky and others before the Victory Day on December 16. It also called for withdrawal of all cases and convictions against them. It also demanded the release of Biswajit Nandi, Mohiuddin and others before the Victory Day.

The meeting which was held at Road No 32 residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman also reviewed the preparations for the forthcoming council meeting of the party.

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CSO: 4600/1286

JATIYA SECRETARY GENERAL SPEAKS AT RECEPTION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Secretary General of Jatiya Party, Major General (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan yesterday called upon the party leaders and workers to sink petty differences to make the Jatiya Party as the largest and strongest political organisation in the country, reports BSS.

Speaking at a reception accorded to him on his appointment as the Secretary General of the Jatiya Party, Gen Hasan said that henceforth all political issues would have to be faced politically.

Organised by the city unit of the Jatiya Party, the reception was presided over by the JP city President, Mr. Jahangir Mohammad Adel. It was addressed by the Jute Minister, Lt. Col (Retd) Zafar Imam, Agriculture Minister, Mirza Ruhul Amin, Minister of State for Labour and Manpower, Mr. Mostafa Jamal Haider, and General Secretary of the city JP, Mr. Abdur Rahim.

Energy Minister Anwar Hossain was present on the occasion.

Gen Hasan urged the party leaders and workers to be imbued with the ideals of President Ershad for presenting him a well-knit and disciplined organisation to build the coveted new Bangladesh.

Explaining the party principles, Gen Hasan said, "my

aim is the same-to serve the people and I want to assure President Ershad that I shall successfully perform my new responsibility as the Secretary General of the Jatiya Party".

The Secretary General of the Jatiya Party said that a situation of unrest was obtaining in the country and the Jatiya Party leaders and workers would have to take the prime responsibility of establishing peace and tranquillity conducive to development activities.

Gen Hasan regretted that as the ruling party, the Jatiya Party could not yet grow in the rural areas as expected. He said that the party would be formed at thana and ward level throughout the country as per the constitution. There must be only one committee in the city, he added.

He stressed on the need for the reorganisation of the party to make it the largest and strongest organisation and added that it did not mean change of leaders.

Recollecting his activities as the administrator of the Dhaka Municipal Corporation, General Hasan said previously the DMC was disorganised and a den of politics and a volcano of corruption.

"I have reorganised it and brought discipline among the

7000 workers and by now the DMC has become an automatic machine", he said.

Gen Hasan thanked the President for assigning him in all difficult tasks.

Referring to the question of his eligibility as the Secretary General of political party, Gen Hasan said that there were many instances of contribution by many generals in the field of politics and nation building in the world.

Lt Col (Retd) Zafar Imam called upon the party leaders and workers to prove their efficacy in the service to the people and the nation.

Mirza Ruhul Amin said that President Ershad had created an unprecedented history by lifting martial law and establishing democracy in the country.

Mr Mostafa Jamal Haider urged the people to rally round under the banner of the Jatiya Party to build a just society in the country.

In his presidential speech, Mr. Jahangir Mohammad Adel urged the party leadership to stop grouping inside the Jatiya Party. He assured all out support to the new Secretary General strengthening the Jatiya Party.

Gen Hasan was presented with a gold shapla flower on the occasion.

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CSO: 4600/1277

REPORT ON MEETING OF JAMAAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Central Committee of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh in a resolution adopted at its meeting on Monday called for united movement on the basis of minimum issues rising above petty party politics, to save the nation from a prolonged dictatorial rule.

The committee met for the fourth day on Monday. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan, Acting Ameer of the party, presided over the meeting. The resolution expressed the view that there is no reason why the parties who boycotted the presidential election cannot unite. The meeting felt that the political parties which participated in the parliamentary polls and those did not later observed identical programme of hartal on October 15 and observed Black Day on October 23. The present political situation demands that these political parties unite on

the basis of the demand for resignation of President Ershad.

The resolution said that Jamaat joined the democratic movement to free the country from the Martial Law rule and the party has no grudge against any individual. It reiterated its stand that the take-over by President Ershad removing an elected government was illegal and unconstitutional.

The Central Committee observed that though it participated in the democratic movement to save the country from undemocratic rule but it could not succeed because of self-seeking politicians who are devoid of any principle.

The Central Committee expressed the view that those political parties which boycotted the presidential election cannot accept President Ershad as legally elected President.

It further observed that the present Constitution has given supremacy of the President over

the Parliament, in that case differences of opinion in the opposition camp demanding dissolution of Parliament would not be justified.

The Central Committee of Jamaat-e-Islami held that a new chapter of dictatorial rule has begun through legalisation of all acts of the military rulers enacting the Seventh Amendment. The so-called love for democracy by the present Government has become clear after it banned the public meeting at Baitul Mukarram, student politics and the Government's attempts to create a situation of chaos and confrontation through provocative remarks. The Government has already made it clear that it does not want democracy in the country. It does not also believe in the freedom of the people in exercising their franchise.

The resolution concluded with the hope of carrying forward the democratic movement to save the nation from frustration.

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CSO: 4600/1276

REPORTER NOTES EFFORT TO REVIVE TRIBAL SYSTEM

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

CHITTAGONG, Dec. 2:— Fresh moves are being initiated in Chittagong Hill Tracts to find a lasting solution to the 13-year old so-called Shanti Bahini problem.

The fundamental part of the moves includes revival of traditional values of hilly people and return to the tribal system of administration.

The tribal system reportedly aimed at isolating the hilly people from a few disgruntled elements. These moves will further renew the confidence of the tribal people towards the administration.

To remove the misgivings from the minds of the present tribal people the administrative activities will be oriented to scotch the illfeelings of the tribal people.

Besides 11 renewed drivers are being launched to inculcate fraternal and harmonious relation between tribal and non-tribal people in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The tribal convention is also playing a pioneering role to cement the bond of relation and forge unity among all races for a harmonious living.

The 21 member Tribal Convention with leading citizens of Chittagong Hill Tracts has been

formed as an alternative organisation to Shanti Bahini. This Convention now acts as a medium between the Government and the tribal people. It also

provides a forum for both the tribal leaders and the Government functionaries to exchange views and work together for the country's uplift. The tribal convention has given an excellent opportunity to bring the tribal people closer to the Government and to remove misunderstandings.

However the morale of remaining so-called Shanti Bahini men has been badly shaken. The Shanti Bahini men beset with internal clique and intrigue are now in total bewilderment. The regular infightings further put them in a chaotic condition. At least 400 hard core members were killed in the jungle infighting during the last six years. Besides over 3000 odd Shanti Bahini men gave up their arms and surrendered to the law enforcing agencies. This has ultimately resulted in the reduction of the strength of their membership from 5000 to 1000.

Meanwhile the Government has taken up a massive economic programme for the uplift of tribal people which includes Taka 263 crore special five-year plan Asian Development Bank financed multi-sectoral development programme UNICEF development programme and Chittagong Hill Tracts Board's development programme. These development programmes started yielding results. With all these positive signs the liquidation of Shanti Bahini is now only matter of time said a tribal Convention leader.

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CSO: 4600/1278

BRIEFS

ADVISER TO ERSHAD—Mr M. Mahbubuzzaman, Secretary, Cabinet Division, has been appointed Adviser to the President with the rank and status of a Cabinet minister, according to an official announcement made in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. Mr Zaman, a member of erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan and presently of Bangladesh Civil Service (administration) retired yesterday after 37 years of distinguished service in the Government. Meanwhile, another announcement said, Mr M. Mujibul Huq, Member, Planning Commission, has been appointed Secretary, Cabinet Division. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Nov 86 p 1] /9274

AWAMI LEAGUE (BKSAL) RESOLUTION—The Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BKSAL) in a resolution adopted at its meeting on Friday demanded dissolution of the Parliament and to hold free and fair election under a neutral non-partisan government headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The resolution observed that it is now amply proved that the Parliament was created through vote dacoity and media coup to legalise the illegal acts under Martial Law. Party Chairman Mr Mohjuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting. The meeting was adjourned till 3 p.m. on Sunday. The meeting also demanded cancellation of the presidential election on the same ground. The resolution called upon democratic parties and individuals to build up a united movement to remove the dictatorial rule. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Nov 86 p 8] /9274

NORWEGIAN ANNUAL GRANT—Bangladesh will receive Nkr 190 million (equivalent to Tk 91 crore) as annual grant for the year 1987 under Agreed Minutes signed in Dhaka yesterday between the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Norway, says an official handout. The Agreed Minutes were signed on conclusion of three-day annual development cooperation consultations. Out of this fund an amount of Nkr 70.00 million is earmarked for commodity assistance. The rest of the fund will be utilised for financing projects in the fields of rural development, health and family planning, women development, Railway telecommunication, inland water transport, etc. Mr M. A. Hena, Additional Secretary, ERD and Mr Nils Vogt, Director General, NORAD signed the agreed minutes on behalf of their respective Governments. It may be mentioned that Norway has been providing assistance to Bangladesh since 1972. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

COOPERATION WITH FRG—Bangladesh and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) yesterday signed a technical cooperation agreement in the field of 'training for the national family health programmes,' reports BSS. Health and Family Planning Secretary, Mr Manzoor-ul Karim and the West German Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr Klaus M. Franke, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. Under the agreement, the FRG government would provide a total of Taka 80 crore to support the National Institute for Population Research and Training (NIPORT) and its subordinate centres in providing family planning training programmes over a period of five years up to December 1990. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Dec 86 p 1] /9274

MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADERS—Mr Quamruzzaman Khan and Mr Atiqul Islam were elected President and General Secretary of Muslim League (Zaman) at the party convention held on Thursday at the Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium. Mr Nazmul Hossain Khan presided over the convention. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Dec 86 p 8] /9274

ENVOY TO AUSTRIA—The government has decided to concurrently accredit Maj Gen Muzammel Hussain, psc at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Federal Republic of Germany, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Austria, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Dec 86 p 3] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND—Bangladesh Ambassador M. M. Rezaul Karim presented his letters of credence to President Dr Mauno Koivisto of the Republic of Finland at a simple ceremony at the presidential palace in Helsinki Saturday, reports BSS. President Koivisto showed keen interest and was apprised of the current political and economic situation in Bangladesh. He asked the Ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and expressed the hope that the friendly cooperative relationship existing between the two countries would be further developed in future. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Dec 86 p 3] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO ITALY—Bangladesh Ambassador designate to Italy Mr Waliur Rahman presented his credentials to President Francesco Cossiga in Rome Friday, according to a message received in Dhaka reports BSS. The Ambassador conveyed to the Italian President the warm greetings of President Ershad for him personally and for the government and the people of Italy. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Nov 86 p 3] /9274

COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE—The meeting of CPB Central Committee concluded on Friday with a demand for extending the facility of exemption of interest on account of agricultural credit to all peasants including the growers of sugarcane and the time-table for repayment of credit from February 28 to June 30. Another resolution of the meeting protested against conversion of the remaining nationalised industries into holding companies and demanded cancellation of such a policy. It also condemned what it described as firing by land lessees on the agricultural labourers and arrest of the injured agricultural labourers. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Dec 86 pp 1, 8] /9274

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE CENTRAL COMMITTEE--Democratic League (Oli Ahad) has called for forging unity among democratic forces to launch a greater movement for dissolution of the parliament. A meeting of the party central committee yesterday also cautioned the people against the intriguing role of the 8-party alliance which aimed at jeopardising the unity against the present government. The meeting presided over by Mr Oli Ahad criticized government ban on holding of public meeting at Baitul Mukarram square and called for its withdrawal. It also criticised the government decision to ban student politics. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Nov 86 p 8] /9274

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE (MUSHTAQ)--Democratic League (Mushtaq) has called for cancellation of presidential and parliamentary elections and demanded holding of a free and fair "national level" election immediately. A two-day meeting of the party central committee that ended on November 21 urged all religious, democratic and patriotic forces to be united for launching a greater movement to compel the government to resign. Presided over by the party chief, Khondakar Mushtaq Ahmed, the meeting held at his Agamasih Lane residence was addressed among others by party leaders Abdur Rahman Khan, Principal Anwaruzzaman Khan, M. A. Wazed, Abdur Rauf Khan, Farhaduddin Chowdhury and Professor Abul Kalam Azad. The meeting observed that although a series of meetings were held among the SAARC countries disputes over Farakka, Talpatti, Tin Bigha and Angorpota between India and Bangladesh remained unresolved. Criticising the olding of Indian industrial fair in Dhaka recently the meeting said that heinous activities to cripple the country's economy continued unabated. It also expressed grave concern over the country's law and order situation. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Nov 86 pp 1, 8] /9274

JCD OFFICIALS ELECTED--Messrs Jalal Ahmed and Mahbubul Haq Bablu became the new President and General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) the student front of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The Chhatra Dal conference was held on Monday which was addressed by Begum Khaleda Zia. There were two panels for election of the new central committee one was (Jalal-Bablu) and the other was (Dudu-Habib). Mr Shamsuzzaman Dudu was the former President of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jalal Ahmed was the General Secretary. Following dispute over election series of bombs were exploded and gunshots were fired on Monday at the conference premises and Hail Mohsin Hall of the Dhaka University. The full committee of Chhatra Dal is yet to be finalised. Meanwhile the supporters of Jalal Bablu panel brought out a victory procession at the Dhaka University premises on Wednesday. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Dec 86 p 8] /9274

POLISH AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS--The Ambassador-designate of Poland Edward Baradziej presented his credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangobhaban on Wednesday, says BSS. Presenting his Letter of Credence, the new Polish envoy expressed the hope taht the friendly ties between his country and Bangladesh would be strengthened in the coming days to the mutual benefit of the two peoples. Reciprocating the sentiments, President Ershad assured Mr Baradziej of all possible cooperation and assistance of his

government in discharge of his duties during his tenure of office here. Earlier, on arrival at Bangobhaban, the Polish envoy was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment. He took the salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Dec 86 p 10] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL-.The government has decided to concurrently accredit Lt General (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, BU, psc, at present High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom, as the country's Ambassador to Portugal, a Foreign Office announcement on Sunday said, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Nov 86 p 3] /9274

CSO: 4600/1285

CHAH BAHAR TERMINAL TO BECOME OPERATIONAL BY YEAR'S END

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Oct 87 p 3

[Text] Zahedan—KEYHAN Correspondent—Construction operations for the great Chah Bahar government terminal at Port Martyr Beheshti, with an area of 300,000 square meters, will be completed by the end of the current year [20 March 1987] and the terminal will be put to use.

An official from the Martyr Beheshti Chah Bahar Terminal Transportation Coordination Committee gave a talk in which he made the above announcement. He said: This terminal can accommodate 300 trucks per day, and its construction will cost 250 million tomans.

He added: This terminal includes a complete restaurant, an ice plant, a bed service, an administrative building, and a small market.

He discussed the shipment of goods out of the terminal. He said: Last year 440,000 tons of merchandise, including wheat, barley, corn, rice, manure, sugar and other goods of various kinds were shipped from the Martyr Beheshti Chah Bahar Terminal to the provinces of Khorasan, Sistan va Baluchestan and the country's other provinces by 24,623 trucks.

Noting that the Ministry of Transportation currently has 150 to 200 freight trucks based at the Martyr Beheshti Chah Bahar Terminal, he added: To make it easier for drivers to obtain parts, representatives of gasoline truck drivers are now active at this port and are making truck parts available at government prices, and representatives from Velo and Nayz will soon be assigned here.

The official from the Martyr Beheshti Chah Bahar Terminal Transportation Coordination Committee discussed the fact that in the vicinity of the terminal an authorized repair facility is to be installed. He said: In order to raise the quality of work and alleviate the problem of the shortage of native workers in the area, steps will soon be taken to form an Islamic cooperative for dock workers, so that in addition to increasing efficiency, work opportunities will be created for indigenous people.

In conclusion, he noted that one of the factors for attracting truckers to this area is reducing the problems with loading and unloading and providing and providing facilities. He added: There are three ships loaded with basic goods docked at this port, and truckers may report to this port to haul goods from the Martyr Beheshti Chah Bahar Terminal.

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CSO: 4640/0049

MEDICAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE ONLY TO COOPERATIVE PHYSICIANS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Oct p 18

[Text] On the basis of Article 8 of the Law to Form the Ministry of Health, Health Care, and Medical Education, the ministry is required to prepare executive guidelines for the planning, supervision, and follow-up of health care centers and institutions. On the basis of Article 10 of these guidelines, all health care centers and institutions must accept all insured patients in accordance with regulations and rules, and this will be approved by the Minister of Health, Health Care, and Medical Education. Violations of these regulations will be reviewed by the appropriate legal commission, and it will rule on the competence of the technical official and the continued operation of the health care center or institution.

Therefore regulations for accepting insured patients must be prepared and be approved by the minister and implemented on the basis of Article 10. On the other hand, according to Article 12 of these guidelines, companies and organizations producing and importing medical, health care and clinical equipment and supplies of any kind, whether government or private, must submit a bill of sale for export and merchandise in exchange for written authorization from the Ministry of Health, Health Care and Medical Education.

This authorization from the ministry will be given only to those persons who have insurance contracts. Health care and medical centers and institutions may make use of the facilities mentioned in Article 12 and any other kind of facilities if they have unconditional insurance contracts.

In the future, every domestic import or production institution may issue materials only in exchange for a voucher from the ministry, and if regulations are violated their subsequent forms will not be approved. Likewise these facilities will be made available to physicians if they have admissions vouchers for insured patients. With this proviso, and assuming equal physician's fees, we expect the physicians and health care institutions themselves to come forward and sign insurance contracts before the rules and regulations are approved and announced. Henceforth, one of the conditions for approval to any person wishing to establish a hospital or a health care institution is that he agree to accept insured patients and sign an insurance contract.

Concerning existing and operating health care centers and institutions, on the basis of Article 10 they must accept insured patients.

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CSO: 4640/0049

PARTICULARS OF NEW PLAN FOR MEAT AVAILABILITY DETAILED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 86 p 18

[Text] KEYHAN Economic Service—Fresh meat is being sold at an free price of 120 tomans per kilogram throughout the country by the Butcher's Union. This price is based on a national plan called the Seasonal Meat Price Stabilization Plan. If the plan is implemented the butchers will obtain their just profit and the consumer will also be able to buy meat at this price.

Mohammad 'Ali Purdana, acting director and president of the National Meat Organization, gave a press conference Saturday afternoon in which he discussed the plan to market red meat at free prices. He said: In order to combat haphazard increases in the price of meat, the Seasonal Meat Price Stabilization Plan will be implemented uniformly throughout the country. This plan, which has been approved by the Economic Mobilization Staff, will be implemented on the basis of the following four areas of concentration:

The first area will be consideration of the interests of livestock owners and producers, so that the price of livestock or meat bought from the livestock holder will be based on the last price before the price jump, even though this price is 50 percent higher than for the same month in the year 1364 [21 March 1985 — 20 March 1986].

The second area will be consideration of the interests of the consumer. For this purpose, in order to reduce the price of meat produced from butchered livestock, livestock must be considered as an aggregate, and the income from the resale of food and non-food scrap items used by the cooking guilds must be set in such a way that the price of family consumer meat will be adjusted. On this basis, the price per kilogram to the consumer for mutton with bones should be 1,200 rials and the price of boneless beef and veal should be 1,200 rials. Thus if the seller (the butcher) buys meat on the hoof from the grower for 148 tomans per kilogram, because the butcher can expect to make a profit of about 50 rials, he sells the meat he has purchased to the consumer for 120 tomans. If the price is set with consideration for the value of food and non-food scrap items (head, feet, heart, liver, intestines, skin, and fat), and if its purchase is guaranteed by the Meat Organization, the sale of cut meat at high prices can be corrected.

He then discussed the set and guaranteed prices for livestock scrap items. He said: The price of sheep skin and intestines is 2,800 rials, the price of hearts and livers is 1,500 rials, 1,000 rials for head and feet, 200 rials for tripe, and 360 rials for tallow and fat, which totals more than 5,860 tomans. Likewise, if the filets are separated, we can sell to the cooking guild for 2,000 rials. The difference between the price for the filets and the rest of the meat is income that can be used to

compensate for the added cost of cut meat. At the same time, based on an average calculated weight of 18 kilograms for a sheep's carcass and on an expected loss of three percent for mutton and four percent for beef, the aim is to prevent losses for the seller.

He said: In the third area, calculations have been made with enough precision that there will be no need to pay a subsidy, and the government will pay no meat subsidies under this plan.

The fourth area is the possibility of the plan's implementation, and the plan must be implemented simultaneously throughout the country.

In view of the necessity for the natural transportation of the livestock from the farm areas to the rest of the country, there will be a reasonable difference in the price of meat in the various cities (between 20 and 70 rials) according to the distance of the various cities from Tehran and from the livestock areas, in view of the Tehran price ceiling (120 tomans per kilogram).

Likewise, livestock traffic in the cities will be stopped, and emphasis will be placed on guiding it to the country's authorized slaughterhouses. Moreover, the prohibition on moving livestock among the cities and the provinces will be lifted. He also stressed that there will be a serious and continuous campaign against unauthorized slaughtering throughout the country, and the activities of all markets and hotels that participate in the unauthorized slaughter of livestock will be stopped. Purdana added that the purchase of sheep and goat skin and intestines by the National Meat Organization will be guaranteed as 2,800 rials, the purchase of cut mutton with bone at 2,000 rials, and the purchase of cut boneless beef will be guaranteed at 2,000 rials.

In conclusion he added: This plan will be implemented by the sheep and cattle unions, and meat is to be sold through authorized butchers. In Tehran, where we have about 4,000 butchers, about 2,000 butchers will sell frozen meat at 250 rials per kilogram, 1,000 of them will sell meat at 75 tomans per kilogram, and another 1,000 of them will sell it at the free price (120 tomans).

Our economic correspondent adds that for precise implementation of the plan and to prevent violations, a staff has been formed in the governor-general's office of Tehran. He also noted that for rationed meat in Tehran, in addition to Coupon One, two new coupons have been announced by the Economic Mobilization staff: Coupon 217, for frozen meat (25 tomans), good until the end of the month of Azar [21 December], and Coupon 219 for 75-toman meat, good until the same date.

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CSO: 4640/0048

CHICKEN, EGG RATIONING METHOD ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Oct 86 p 18

[Text] Economic Service—The method to be used by Tehran residents for obtaining the 36 special ration coupons for chickens and eggs has been announced for the final time.

The Ministry of Commerce Public Relations Office Announced: Since a number of Tehran residents for various reasons were unable to obtain the 36 special ration coupons for chickens and eggs during the first and second distributions, they will have a final opportunity, on the dates given below, to report to the specified branches of the Export Bank with identification for each family member and their old booklets from the economic mobilization, and after they submit their documents they may obtain the 36 ration coupons.

The times for reporting to the Export Bank are from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, and the time for distributing coupons will not be extended under any circumstances. The times for distributing coupons in the other provinces will be announced in the local media.

One- and two-person families, 19 Mehr [11 Oct]

Three-person families, 20 Mehr [12 Oct]

Four-person families, 21 and 22 Mehr [13, 14 Oct]

Five-person families, 23 and 24 Mehr [15, 16 Oct]

Six-person families, 26 Mehr [17 Oct]

Seven-, eight- and nine-person families, 27 and 28 Mehr [17, 18 Oct]

The chicken and egg coupons announced prior to the above 36-coupon series will be good until a later announcement, and coupon-holders may obtain their ration coupons by reporting to the appropriate guild units.

KEYHAN: A great many readers, in repeated contacts by letter and telephone, have complained about the lack of coordination in the distribution of the new economic mobilization booklets. For several months now, because of the change, they have been collecting the old economic mobilization booklets from families at most of the local council sites, but decisive and rapid steps are not being taken to issue the new booklets. This has created problems for families in the procurement of coupons for food and in other activities requiring the presentation of economic mobilization booklets. As a result, most families, being unable to obtain the coupons, have reported at the specified time with expired coupons, while the governor-general's office of Tehran could easily solve the people's problem in a short time by coordinating the local councils.

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CSO: 4640/0047

BRIEFS

OFFICE SUPPLIES IMPORTED IN EXCHANGE FOR OIL—Stockholm—ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY—Our country's minister of commerce, Hasan 'Abedi-Ja'fari, concluded his three-day visit to Finland Saturday and left Helsinki. Our nation's minister of commerce, who visited Finland at the head of an economic delegation, held talks with high-ranking Finnish officials, including the foreign minister and the minister of commerce. In an interview with the correspondent for the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY's Stockholm center, the minister of commerce discussed the outlook for relations between Finland and Iran. The outlook for cooperation between the two countries in various areas such as the timber industries, paper, dairy products, metal industries, and food industries is very bright. The minister of commerce discussed the subject of his talks with the Finnish foreign minister. He said: During this visit there were talks concerning the imposed war and the Islamic Republic of Iran's conditions for ending the war were explained. The foreign minister of Finland also reemphasized his country's position concerning the war, which is continued neutrality. Our nation's Minister of Commerce also discussed his talks with his counterpart in Finland. He said: In my visit with the minister of commerce of Finland we discussed the framework of the note of mutual understanding signed between the two countries last year. One of its principal items is the export of Iran's oil in exchange for imports of office supplies, cardboard, and paper pulp. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 86 p 18] 9310

AIRBASE TELEPHONE HEADQUARTERS INAUGURATED - Zahedan - KEYHAN
Correspondent - The 2,000-number airbase telephone system of Chah Bahar was inaugurated Thursday in the presence of the Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone, the Air Force Commander, and the supervisor of the Airforce Political and Ideological Organization. Engineer Gharazi, Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone, after inspecting this system, attended a gathering of Chah Bahar Airbase personnel and gave a talk praising the efforts of the airbase personnel in moving the Air Force in the direction of self-sufficiency. In an interview with our correspondent, he said: In my relatively long background in industrial centers, I have seen that wherever foreign personnel have been in charge of projects in this country which were not completed because of the Islamic revolution, they have had hopes of returning and completing the projects. For example, I have heard that the Americans, who were in charge of the project to start this same 2,000-number telephone system at Chah Bahar Airbase, told some of our brothers at the World Court at The Hague to use Egyptian and Nigerian specialists to launch and maintain this system. Our brothers have now shown such creativity that they have no need of any kind of foreign advisors for such affairs. Noting the expansion of the cable communications network in the country, especially in the deprived areas, Engineer Gharazi said: Since the Chah Bahar area is one of the country's deprived areas, and since it is also a sensitive strategic area, we hope that by installing cable facilities and adding to the inter-city telephone circuits, the communication problems for airbase personnel and the people of this area will be solved in the near future. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 86 p 3] 9310

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RISE IN COST OF LIVING, HARDSHIPS ANALYZED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 25 Dec 86 pp 20, 21, 26

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision last month to raise the selling price of wheat from Rs. 200 to Rs. 229 per 100 kg, combined with its earlier decision to end the rationing system, from February next, is undoubtedly going to add to the hardships of the lower income groups. The price of atta (flour) fixed by the Government at Rs. 48.00 for an 18 kg bag is Rs. 13 higher than what people are currently paying at the ration shops. And there is no guarantee that the prices will not go up further. Experience has shown that there is always a difference between the official price of a commodity and the one it is actually sold at. In fact, the announcement of the increase in the sale price of wheat pushed the 'atta' prices in the open market to Rs. 51 and Rs. 52 per 18 kg bag.

Another year is thus coming to a close with no respite from the rising cost of living. The quality of life for the average Pakistani is becoming increasingly inferior while the cost of it is getting dearer. There is, however, one section of the population for whom nothing seems to be too dear — from Honda Accords to imported chocolates and toys. The contrast in the standards of living of the affluent and the deprived is not only stark but also very visible. The shops in the upper class urban

FAMILY—I

Minimum expenditure per month excluding clothing, medicines and

other family expenses (births, marriages, deaths)

Family size — 3 adults, 6 children

Total income p.m. — Rs. 1,620

Earning members — 3 (1 m, 2 f)

Expenditures in Rupees

House Rent	200.00
Committee (savings)	200.00
Schooling (4)	150.00
Atta	175.00
Milk	225.00
Daily food basket (tea, sugar, ghee, veg. etc.)	750.00
Fuel (wood and oil)	100.00
Total:	1,820.00

shopping areas, brimming with every imaginable consumer item and doing brisk business, do not reflect the difficulties of survival for the poor.

The consumer price index prepared by the Federal Bureau of Statistics also fails to reflect the true picture of the high cost of living, particularly for the poorer sections of society — the unemployed, the wage labourers, blue and white collar workers, and now more and more the salaried classes. Although the price index does not take cognisance of the difference between the food baskets of the poor and the rich, it does reveal that over the years the most significant rise, with impact on the widest section of the population, has been in the food, beverages and tobacco category. While the price index of the miscellaneous category has also gone up consider-

ably, the commodities included in this are not those which attract people at the lower rung of the socio-economic ladder. These include cosmetics, tyres and tubes, T.V. sets, newspapers, postal charges, etc. — items being dispensed with even by those who could afford them a few years ago.

Prices & Martial Law

The prices have spiralled in the Martial Law years. For some commodities they have gone up by 200%.

FAMILY — II

Family size — 5 adults, 1 infant

Total income : Rs. 2,300 p.m.

Earning members: 2 (1 m; 1 f).

Professions: Driver; domestic help.

Transport — bicycle

Expenditures in Rupees

House Rent	500.00
Committee (savings)	400.00
Atta:	145.00
Milk	225.00
Daily food (tea, sugar, ghee, vegetables)	750.00
Cooking fuel/electricity, water bills	100.00
Total	Rs. 2,300.00

In Lahore, from 1979 to 1986, beef prices have jumped from Rs. 7 to Rs. 18 per kg; kerosene oil from Rs. 1.50

to Rs. 4.50 per litre, vegetable ghee from Rs. 10.70 to Rs. 13.00 per k.g., basmati rice from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per kg, potatoes from Rs. 2 a kg. to Rs. 4 per kg, and sugar from Rs. 7.50 kg (f.p.) to Rs. 10 per kg.

Equally prohibitive for the average individual, especially the urbanite, is the cost of housing. It is not uncommon for families to pay up to a quarter of their income as rent. Combined with transport, clothing and other basic needs like health and education, very little is left for emergencies and unforeseen expenses e.g., births and deaths. Marriages are a category unto themselves stretching the resources of the lower and middle income groups beyond their capacities. Entertainment for the poor in most cases is not even considered.

Official claims notwithstanding (the Sixth Five Year Plan states that the per capita caloric intake is 99 per cent of the recommended minimum level), it is estimated that 35% of the country's population fails to secure the minimum nutritional requirement.

No protest

Incomprehensible, however, is the people's capacity to absorb the

FAMILY — III

Family size — 2 adults
Total income — Rs. 6,526 p.m.
Earning members — 2 (1 m; 1 f).
Professions: Teacher, Journalist
Transport: second hand car and
"second hand" motorbike

Expenditure in Rupees

House rent and bills	3000.00
Domestic help (1)	100.00
Dry rations	150.00
Eggs, milk, cheese, meat.	700.00
Transport & maintenance	760.00
Commute to work place out of town by bus	550.00
Entertainment	500.00
Total:	Rs. 5,730.00

high costs that survival demands. There are no signs of street protests like the ones witnessed in Egypt

whenever the Government attempts to increase the price of bread. The reason partly lies in the people's psyche built over years of authoritarian rule to not question the dispensation coming their way. They try and adjust within their range of income by limiting their needs to the most essential ones. While people cannot live without food, the content of it can be reduced. Meat and expensive vegetables are dispensed with; reliance is on the cheaper pulses and bread.

Interestingly, with the rising cost of living has developed a parallel poor man's economy. In the backstreets of the posh shopping areas may be found the bazaars where substandard goods are available at lower rates. The wood cabins or push-carts self-run by owners reduce overheads. In these lanes, like the Canal Park market, the Mozang bazaar or the Pakki Thatti market (Samanabad) of Lahore, cloth, shoes and eatables are not the same as seen in the well-lit, glistening shops catering to the needs of the upper classes. Rejected material from textile mills, cheap shoes (apparently made for such urban and similar rural markets), inferior quality fruit and vegetables can all be found within the range of the poorer pocket.

It would, however, not be entirely accurate to state that there is no public resentment over this situation. From time to time political parties and citizens-groups protest, especially when shortages occur. It is not uncommon, particularly in the smaller towns for instance, to have shortages of atta, kerosene, petrol, diesel oil, or ice. In June last, the citizens of Fatehjang protested against the rise in the prices of sugar, pulses and wheat. In May, the Pakistan Democratic Party organised a rally against price hike in Lahore. In June, the Karachi Chamber of Consumers, a citizens body, criticised the rise in meat prices. It protested the discrepancy of two to six rupees between the official price and the one charged by shopkeepers for various commodities. More recently (Nov. 20) the railway workers demonstrated at all workshops in Lahore against the increase in 'atta' prices.

Political parties have occasionally

taken up the issue, though not as strongly as they perhaps can and ought to. Tehrik-e-Istiqal in August, in response to the spurt in the prices, passed a resolution condemning it. The PPP held a rally in Karachi in October on the same issue. While the cost of living can be a major mobilising issue political parties have not yet used it — perhaps because they are not interested in disturbing the socio-economic status quo and, therefore, do not want to stir the masses.

Law and order

A factor which has added to the already high costs and prices is the worsening law and order situation. This past year or more has seen conflicts and violence erupting in different parts of the country, followed by curfews and disruption of transport. The immediate consequence has been costlier essential commodities for the population of the locality. And since the affected areas have invariably been low-income ones, the people to suffer most have also been the poorer ones.

The Government response to people's resentment has usually been a half-hearted one. It hands out statements from time to time that it is taking steps to control prices. It forces vendors to display price lists and sometimes moves itself to raid shops and arrest those violating its orders but then relents to the pressure from the traders lobby. In Sheikhpura last June, after one such raid the shopkeepers threatened to strike if the arrested traders were not released. The administration succumbed to pressure.

The Government has also set up fair price shops and utility stores where it claims that essential consumer items are available at lower prices. But the usual experience has been of either very sub-quality goods or shortages of those very items whose prices are at the peak. In many cases, these shops are unkempt and sparsely stocked.

Other measures taken by the Government have included the setting up of the Federal Prices, Supply Board, the Price Stabilisation Committee, and Price Control Committees from Thana to district levels.

Despite these the prices are constantly on the increase — from those of vegetables and fruit to meat, atta, sugar, to petroleum products, ghee, tea and to building materials like cement and bricks. In fact, Government's sincerity is generally doubted.

Official claims

On the one hand self-sufficiency in food is claimed at the official level, but on the other, reality reflects extremely uneven and unjust distribution of it. Obviously the Government has failed to deliver even the minimum of what is seen as its responsibility. This is evident in most of the service sectors operated by the Government. Inefficiencies in the public sector have led to the development of parallel services.

For example, road transport is increasingly being used for transporting cargo in place of the railway cargo service. Courier services are being used because of the unreliable postal services. Electricity losses in transmission have made it impossible to take electricity to 40,000 villages and has forced the use of private generators. Obviously, privately operated parallel services are much more costly and this has an impact on the goods and services available to the population at large. In almost all cases the extra costs are transferred to the consumers.

All these problems have been further exacerbated by the fallout of the Afghan conflict. The presence of millions of refugees — a

good percentage of whom are involved in smuggling of foreign goods from crockery to electronic ware — has had a peculiar effect on the economy. Ostentatious consumption created and established by the money earned in the Gulf and elsewhere are now being fostered by the local "Bara" markets even when the Gulf money is drying up. Smuggling of guns and drugs has also brought into circulation large sums of money which is then used for flashy cars, Kalashnikovs, VCRs, etc., etc.

The change in policies has to come from the Government. With Pakistan's per capita annual income as low as 200 dollars, food subsidies alone can keep the deprived multitudes from starvation. In the meantime, prices and costs can, perhaps, be checked by local actions — to a certain extent at least. Consumer Consumption Protection groups have been found to be effective not only in the capitalist industrialist countries but in developing ones, too. In South Asia, such societies are particularly active and successful in Sri Lanka. Last year the UN General Assembly adopted guidelines on Consumer Protection and twenty-five international bodies are in the process of developing and drafting codes to protect consumers. Pakistanis could take a cue from these efforts and form groups and organisations, from neighbourhood to the city level, to pressurize the trading community and the administration to make available the essentials for life at affordable prices.

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CSO: 4600/105

ETHNIC VIOLENCE: ATTENTION TO 'WRITING ON THE WALL' URGED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 25 Dec 86 p 34

[Text]

THE BLOOD-BATH in Karachi is perhaps ended, but the impact it is going to leave on the ethno-politics of this country has only begun to show. Yesterday's public meetings of ANP in Peshawar and elsewhere in the province, and the resolution passed by the Jiye Sind central committee in Sind should not be taken lightly. The vehemence of the language may reflect an emotionalism natural in the wake of a great tragedy, but the new earnestness about the basic argument is not the product of a moment of heat.

The Karachi events have served as a kind of an eye-opener for some and a confirmation of their worst fears for some others. It may be of use to investigate the event, identify and classify causes, attribute responsibility, apportion blame. But for the people generally, the unwinnowed devastating fact is that the common people of two communities clashed, and that the members of one indiscriminately killed the members of the other; also that the Government took drastic action against a Pathan colony to clean it up of drug and arms, but ended up with little to show for it. Both these apparent facts have in a kind of equal and like reaction tended to make people even more conscious of their ethnic identity, of their need, as such, for greater security, greater control over their area of the land and its resources, and over their destiny.

This is not a feeling that will go away easily. It is in fact likely to spread over a widening section of the people. The bitter-

ness and abrasiveness with which it has come in is the direct consequence of the political follies of the past that did not take special care to ensure that no section of the population had a sense of unequal opportunities, of being wronged and denied even its own share in the nation's resources, and of feeling itself to be a non-participant in the running and ordering of national affairs. The biggest villains in this tragedy of fragmentation were the long spells of martial law; and perhaps the most mindless innovation on the latest restoration of quasi-civilian rule was the barring of political parties, which are one instrument that effectively cut across provincial and ethnic boundaries.

There is clearly no longer any time to waste in divisive politics. Those who can read the signs should see that the problem has now become more than a handful; that the Government as it is now formed and postured can't deal with it without making it progressively worse. The status quo just can no longer deliver. The clamant need is for an order that is flexible enough to realise the need for basic changes where needed, self-confident enough to venture on those changes, and credible enough for the people to trust that it will deliver. Whether such an order can emerge in time is uncertain, but an effort has to be made. And it cannot be made without the people themselves participating in it. The least the country can retrieve from Sohrab Goth and Orangi and half dozen other townships is the writing on their burnt-out walls. - THE FRONTIER POST, Dec. 20

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CSO, 4600/105

COMMENTARY ON HURS CRITICIZES ROLE OF PRIVATE ARMIES

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 25 Dec 86 pp 8

[Text]

FEARS expressed in these columns two years ago about the risks involved in using the Pagara Pir's Hurs as an auxiliary police force have with time proved to be fully justified.

In recent weeks, many of Sind's political leaders have given voice to growing public complaints that, in operations against villages suspected of harbouring wanted criminals, the Hurs have frequently been guilty of harassing innocent people. To the general protest, the Sindhiani Tehrik has specifically referred to instances of the Hurs misbehaviour in dealing with women. In defence of his men, the Pir of Pagara has been content to say that the Hur mujahideen, in collaboration with the patriotic people of Sind, will safeguard every inch of the motherland and that they are "defending the internal frontiers of Pakistan."

The charge

Whatever this gobbledegook may mean, the Pir has not refuted the charge that Hur atrocities were further alienating the people and increasing disaffection against the regime. Even if the allegations against

the Hurs are sometimes exaggerated, although one has no reason to doubt the integrity of those making the complaints, the point of principle is that no private armies should be maintained by any person in the country, even if he is considered by some to be a spiritual leader. The fact that the provincial Administration occasionally finds it useful to employ the Hurs as mercenaries provides no justification for the existence of such a force. There are other pirs and feudals who could, if they wanted, raise private lashkars and in time of need employ them for any cause they may espouse. This whole business of tolerating, even patronising, warlords, and their men becoming part of the State machinery, not only offends democratic principles but is bound to create grave complications.

It is, therefore, strongly recommended that the Hur mujahids should be disbanded and the police force should be increased to cope with Sind's present troubles. There can be little doubt that persistence with the present policy is an invitation to new dangers, and it will defeat the purpose for which it has been evolved.

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